



Daily Report

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Two-Day NATO Summit Meeting Held in Brussels

Statement Issued

PM031244 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 5

[Special correspondents V. Drobkov, Yu. Kharlanov report: "NATO: Quest for a Strategy: Summit Meeting Opens"]

[Excerpt] Brussels, 2 Mar—[Passage omitted] This evening a statement was issued by NATO Headquarters on behalf of the heads of state and government taking part in the work of the bloc council. In particular, it proclaims NATO's intention to maintain "security and stability in Europe with the lowest possible level of armaments." At the same time, the document contains the now traditional references at NATO conferences to "imbalance" and "Soviet superiority" in the conventional arms sphere. The NATO heads of state and government also came out in favor of keeping nuclear "deterrent" forces in Europe "in the foreseeable future." Greece officially recorded its special position on the nuclear aspects of the statement.

Arms Control Agenda Suggested

LD032053 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Brussels March 3 TASS—The heads of state and government of the NATO member countries closed their meeting here today with the adoption of a declaration.

The participants in the meeting discussed issues of security and East-West relations in the light of changes in the international situation following the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty in December last year.

The NATO heads of state and government declared that "the search for improved and more stable relations with the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe is among our principal concerns."

"We will continue the effort to expand cooperation with the East wherever and whenever this is of mutual benefit," said the declaration.

"The recently concluded INF agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union is a milestone in our efforts to achieve a more secure peace and lower levels of arms."

The leaders of 15 NATO countries (excluding France which preferred to retain the freedom of action) suggested the following agenda for the arms control process:

- a 50-per cent reduction in the strategic offensive nuclear weapons of the U.S. and the Soviet Union to be achieved during current Geneva negotiations,
- the global elimination of chemical weapons,

- the establishment of a stable and secure level of conventional forces, by the elimination of disparities, in the whole of Europe,

- tangible and verifiable reductions of the American and Soviet land-based short-range missile systems, leading to the establishment of equal levels.

The declaration expressed the hope that the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States at their summit in Moscow would "be able to build upon the progress achieved at their Washington meeting last December."

The Brussels declaration also contains provisions that in no way tally with the proclaimed aspiration towards disarmament, and even run counter to it.

It said directly about the West's intention to preserve nuclear weapons as an integral part of its strategy of deterrence. "For the foreseeable future there is no alternative to the alliance strategy for the prevention of war," it stated. "This is a strategy of deterrence based upon an appropriate mix of adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces which will continue to be kept up to date where necessary."

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu pointed to the incompatibility of this provision with the proclaimed striving towards disarmament. The Greek representative refused to put his signature under that provision of the document.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington presented the intention of the member countries to upgrade their arms, including nuclear weapons, as a compromise between those who favoured the modernisation of nuclear weapons remaining outside the Soviet-American INF agreement and those who opposed that, believing that this modernisation might create obstacles in the way of the started process of disarmament.

On the completion of the meeting, NATO leaders resorted to the old thesis of the "Soviet military threat" in a bid to justify the dual character of the document before world public opinion.

Remarks to this effect were made at meeting with the press by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other NATO leaders.

Decree Viewed as 'Compromise'

LD031511 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Military News Analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The impression is that the statement on conventional armaments adopted by the NATO heads of state and government in Brussels was a result of a compromise between those who want "an immediate modernisation of nuclear arms" and the more cool-headed representatives of Western Europe.

Lately the British Premier Margaret Thatcher is clearly alarmed that in the minds of people the image of the "uncivilised bear" is ever more often associated with the North Atlantic bloc than with the Soviet Union. That must be why she pressed for the inclusion in the NATO statement of a number of wordings in the spirit of the worst times of the military psychosis in the West with the aim of putting in doubt the peaceful directedness of Soviet initiatives. As to the more moderate representatives of NATO countries, they "persuaded" Mrs. Thatcher to give up any mention in the statement of the matter of "compensation" for the nuclear weapons that are to be eliminated in accordance with the INF Treaty.

As a result of the compromise some parts of the NATO statement drawn up in March 1988 could well be taken for the phantasmagoric statements made by "knights of the cold war" forty years ago. On the other hand, journalists say, the participants in the NATO session must have "agreed not to agree so far" on the modernisation of tactical nuclear weapons.

In their declaration the leaders of NATO countries use truly unexpected arguments in support of their conclusions about the direct threat to Western Europe's security supposedly posed by the Soviet Union. One of these "arguments" is that Warsaw treaty countries have common borders while the NATO countries are not geographically a single whole. The NATO statement also contains the deliberate falsehood about the "advantages" of the Soviet Union which supposedly can bring troops to the line of confrontation in Europe faster than the United States. And of course there is the long threadbare invention about the wall of secrecy in Warsaw treaty countries.

But in addition to purely propaganda inventions the NATO statement contains also provisions that make one think about the prospects of the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe. As different from the Warsaw treaty countries which propose to remove the asymmetries in the armed forces of the two sides by reducing them to the lowest level, the NATO proposals are based in some instances on building up their own forces and in other instances on the preservation of the military advantages of the West. In short, the Atlanticists insist that only Warsaw treaty countries should reduce armaments and armed forces. And this in conditions of a rough parity of the military might of the two blocs in Europe.

One should note that the concept of attaining military superiority has not yet been abandoned in some capitals of NATO countries. And this is borne out, in part, by the Brussels statement on conventional arms.

Summit Called 'Disappointing'

*LD031640 Moscow World Service in English
1410 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Viktor Glazunov commentary]

[Text] The 2-day NATO summit in Brussels has drawn to a close. Here is a commentary by our political observer Viktor Glazunov. This is what he writes.

This was the first NATO summit in 6 years, and its purpose was to discuss security issues in the wake of the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the abolition of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and in the runup to the Soviet-American summit in Moscow. The session was also to define NATO's policy under a new set of circumstances. The outcome of the Brussels session is disappointing. The session, it must be said, did not ignore the new trends. It did support the Soviet-American INF Treaty and voiced the hope that the Soviet-American summit will be a success. On the other hand, the Brussels declaration contains the stereotypes of old and commits the alliance to a policy of strength and nuclear deterrence, proceeding from claims about a Soviet threat.

The session called for keeping and upgrading NATO's nuclear potential and alleged that the Soviet Union and its allies are superior in conventional weapons and armed forces. The session ignored the Soviet proposal made a long time ago for opening talks in order to define where there are asymmetries, and reach an agreement on removing them so as to pave the way for radical arms reduction. The Brussels Declaration says nothing at all about balanced cuts. The NATO leaders have to all intents and purposes demanded that the Soviet Union disarm unilaterally. The message of the declaration is that if NATO has to do anything at all it is to build up its nuclear and conventional weaponry. There is no consensus on the issue among the members of NATO though, and the Brussels session revealed that once again.

The situation is paradoxical. Not a single missile has yet been scrapped under the Soviet-American treaty, but some NATO members, Britain for one, have already begun to demand compensation. That kind of logic is rejected by other nations. No final decision on the issue of compensation has been taken at Brussels because of the differences that emerged there. It's an alarming sign, however, that the American President who signed the first ever treaty on disarmament in real terms supported the idea of compensation.

'Strategy Differences' Noted

*LD031504 Moscow in English to North America
0000 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Brussels is hosting a 2-day session of NATO's Council involving heads of state and government. Our observer Vladislav Kozyakov has the details:

Although the current session at the NATO Headquarters is held behind closed doors, the major items of the agenda have been widely announced. NATO is to draft a new strategy now that a Soviet-American treaty has been signed to scrap intermediate and shorter-range missiles, and other disarmament agreements are pending.

This issue appears to be a very complex one for NATO. The traditional claims about a threat from the East are no longer working as they used to do. And the drive toward larger arsenals has obviously lost momentum. Something definitely needs to be done with NATO's strategy now that the alliance is facing a different kind of alternative: If not confrontation, then what?

Meanwhile, some of the NATO leaders seem to be acting as if by inertia. To make up for the American missiles that are to be scrapped, they suggest that the rest of NATO's European stockpiles, numbering 4,600 missiles, be modernized, and the chemical and conventional arsenals in Europe be further expanded. And that's the program the American delegation has brought to the conference in Brussels.

However, not all of the NATO leaders share this American stance. The West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, for one, insisted during his last week's visit to Washington that no modernizing of the remaining nuclear stockpiles should be made in haste. And President Francois Mitterrand of France has told the daily OUEST FRANCE it would be both untimely and paradoxical to implement rearmament plans now that both military blocs have embarked on the path of disarmament. He called for a strategic balance to be achieved at the lowest possible level.

In displaying such wide differences with regard to issues of strategy, NATO leaders still claim to be seeking accord, particularly in view of the U.S. President's forthcoming visit to Moscow. The question arises, however, as to which of the trends will take the upper hand at the current NATO summit in Brussels, that is, whether the conference will decide on the compensation plan that will nullify all the former disarmament steps, or whether the NATO leaders will offer a businesslike and concrete response to the Soviet proposals on drastic cuts in both nuclear and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains.

NATO 'Missed' Good Chance

LD032314 Moscow in English to Great Britain
and Ireland 2000 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Nikolay Borin commentary]

[Text] The NATO summit, I believe, has missed a good chance of changing the situation in Europe. After the treaty for abolishing Euromissiles was signed in Washington, millions of Europeans, but not only in Western

Europe, hoped the problems facing their continent would get a fresh approach. Some observers claim that a certain general strategy for the future was outlined in Brussels. Unfortunately, this is an exaggeration. Compromises on updating nuclear forces and combining them with NATO's conventional arms are nothing new. The resolution the heads of state adopted in Brussels could well have been signed by their defense ministers. As for the concept of a new stage of European policy, no key was found to solve the problems the time has brought Europe face to face with. As a matter of fact, the obsolete strategy of deterrence prevails. Unlike the attempts by the British and some other delegations to uphold the idea of modernizing nuclear arms, this strategy underwent no modernization, which leads us to ask if the present leaders of the Western Alliance can at all work out a new strategy to square with the spirit of our times.

To answer the question, (?it's enough) to recall the statement made in Brussels that the West intends to press for denying the Soviet Union any opportunity to launch a surprise attack (?in Europe). (?It's a small thing), this heartfelt concern about the security of the West European [words indistinct] The Soviet Union, too, would like to rule out blitzkrieg in Europe. And by the way, in its history Russia experienced wars wrought from (?westways), and not the other way round.

I believe doomed is any attempt of working out a strategy that is based on egocentrism and ignores the fears and interests of the other side. (?True) political and strategic dogma can be adhered to on this basis [as heard], but in this case one shouldn't pretend to be willing to figure out any new approaches in NATO's philosophy.

Now, if we take confidence-building measures in Europe, isn't it better to rely on collective efforts rather than talk about a unilateral arms build-up and unilateral [word indistinct]? The concept of a collective approach to confidence-building measures in Europe, I believe, (?stood) out in a recent initiative by the Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, who suggested forming a [word indistinct] zone in Europe in between the two alliances. [passage indistinct]

Of course, the differences among the session participants told on the resolution (?adopted), but it is not so much what happened at the session that matters. (?As it happened), the modern concept of Western interests was not discussed in earnest—that is regrettable indeed. It is probably too early to expect the alliance to display readiness to work out with the Warsaw treaty nations a joint strategy of security. The invitation stands (?open). But the Europeans had a right to expect the Brussels session to reflect the elements of the new and more open approach. These hopes are yet to come true, which is a pity.

Dobrynin, Medvedev Havana Conference Activities

Visit Moncada Barracks, Modelo

*LD012003 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT
1 Mar 88*

[Text] Nueva Gerona March 1 TASS—Anatoliy Dobrynin and Vadim Medvedev, who are secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee, and other participants in a conference of the secretaries for international matters of the central committees of the socialist and workers' parties of socialist countries, which is under way in the Cuban capital, made a trip to the Island of Youth.

They visited a museum in the former Modelo Prison, in which Fidel Castro and other Cuban patriots were kept after the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada Barracks, the bastion of the Batista regime.

At the Friendship House in the island's administrative center, the city of Nueva Gerona, the participants in the conference were greeted by Armando Manreza, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and first secretary of the Executive Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba on the Island of Youth. He briefed them in detail on the history of the island, the social and economic situation here and plans for the future.

The conferees also toured a ceramic product factory.

Conference Closes

*LD032137 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Havana March 3 TASS—The secretaries of the Central Committees of the communist and workers' parties of the socialist countries for international affairs completed their conference here today.

Delegations from the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Workers' Party of Korea, the Communist Party of Cuba, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Romanian Communist Party, the CPSU and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia attended the meeting.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was represented by secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin and Vadim Medvedev.

The participants in the meeting held a thorough exchange of views on international problems and discussed issues of furthering cooperation between the communist and workers' parties in the socialist countries.

A communique was adopted on the results of the conference. The text of the communique will be published in the press.

Gerasimov Holds Press Conference 3 March

Republic Situation 'Normal'

LD031548 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Replying to questions about the situation in Sumgait and some other towns in Azerbaijan and Armenia Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said that it was normal. The head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate spoke at a briefing held at the Foreign Ministry's Press Centre.

He said that disorders were provoked by groups of hooligans on February 28. Unbalanced people got involved in them under the influence of provocative rumours and incendiary talk about what had taken place in Nagorno-Karabakh. Criminal elements perpetrated bandit actions in the situation of rampant emotions and this resulted in loss of life.

Law enforcement bodies succeeded in apprehending persons who instigated the disorders and perpetrated criminal offences. First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Petr Demichev and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan Kyamran Mamed ogly Bagirov are now staying in Sumgait to resolve the arising questions. Today they had conversations with residents of the city. A government commission has been set up and is headed by the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan Gasan Neymat ogly Seidov. All questions connected with the city's normal life are being successfully solved; the functioning of public transport and other utilities. [sentence as received]

Asked for the exact number of casualties in Sumgait as a result of the disorders Gennadiy Gerasimov said that "for us even the loss of one life is too much". Work to identify criminals and inciters to violate the law is being continued.

NATO Council Session Marked

LD031540 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"As all signs indicate, participants in the NATO Council's session in Brussels appreciate the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing here today.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the ministry's Information Directorate, said that "the participants in the Brussels session were not less interested in the next major landmark along the path of nuclear disarmament, that is an agreement on the 50 per cent reduction of strategic offensive weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States, given observance of the ABM Treaty, currently being drafted in Geneva."

In Brussels, Gerasimov said, a whole range of important problems directly related to international security had been raised. "We are prepared to study what the NATO members have to say on these problems.

The principal criterion in working out our attitude to the NATO Council session's decisions will be how far they correspond to the interests of peace in Europe and the world at large, the interests of strengthening international security and advancement along the path of detente."

"But we will be able to give a concrete assessment of the documents only after we have studied them," he added.

As to conventional arms and armed forces, the USSR and its Warsaw Treaty allies came out in favour of their essential reduction and elimination of disbalances and asymmetries by lowering the level of armaments of the side ahead, rather than by upgrading the lagging side.

"The road towards implementing these proposals lies through talks. At the Vienna consultations of 23 nations, we are striving to agree upon the mandate of the future talks on this subject.

Important elements of the mandate have already been agreed upon, including the provision of the contribution of each party to the talks to the measures to reduce the armed forces and armaments," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

On the whole, Gerasimov concluded, the Soviet Union was ready to consider any constructive ideas that would help enhance security and reduce arms.

U.S. Summit Planners To Visit

LD031550 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—In keeping with an understanding reached, a preparatory group for the visit to the Soviet Union of U.S. President Ronald Reagan is due to arrive in Moscow on March 4, a briefing was told today by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The 14 member group is led by Thomas Griscom, assistant to the U.S. President for communications. The group will attend solely to organizational issues—security, communications, and inspection of the establishments which can be included into the program of the U.S. President's stay in the USSR.

The spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry stressed that the group has no powers to discuss any questions on the agenda or the substance of the Soviet-American summit talks. The Soviet side is prepared to give the group every assistance.

Afghan-Pakistani Talks Viewed

*LD031351 Moscow TASS in English 1346 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"The success of the Afghan-Pakistani talks, now in progress in Geneva, might turn out to be a historic breakthrough in the chain of regional conflicts. The successful ending of these talks would be in the interests not only of the peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan but also of the whole of mankind", a briefing here today was told by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

"On the other hand, a failure of the Afghan-Pakistani talks will block the Afghan settlement for a long time. This would be a direct challenge to the United Nations Organisation under whose aegis the talks are being conducted", he said.

'Concern' Over Iran-Iraq War

*LD031611 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] March 3 TASS [dateline as received]—Gennadiy Gerasimov, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman, has expressed today concern about the fresh eruption of hostilities in the Iran-Iraq war. "The war of cities" may only complicate the quest for a peaceful way to settle the conflict, strengthen mutual enmity and bitterness," a briefing was told here by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

"In the context of a resumption of the 'war of cities'", he continued, "attempts are being made to present things in such a way as if the Soviet Union had something to do with it. Claims of this kind are absolutely unfounded. The USSR has not supplied either of the sides with weapons for launching such strikes and in no way sanctioned them. We have invariably urged the leadership of both countries to display restraint and look for ways for the settlement of the conflict not in the battlefield, but at the negotiating table."

The Soviet Union is convinced, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry emphasized, that despite the complexity and acuteness of the problems and differences which have accumulated between Iran and Iraq, there are no insurmountable obstacles in the way towards reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict. "The current dangerous spiral in the development of the Iran-Iraqi conflict is only proof of the need for further intensifying the efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598", he said.

CSSR Proposal Supported

*LD031345 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—A spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry supported Czechoslovakia's proposal to set up a zone of trust, cooperation and goodneighbourly relations along the line of contact between Warsaw treaty and NATO countries.

Speaking at a briefing here today the head of the Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate Gennadiy Gerasimov said that this idea, suggested by the General Secretary of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party Milos Jakes on February 24, rests on a comprehensive approach to solving issues in the military, political, economic and humanitarian fields.

"In particular", the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "in the military sphere this could imply the consecutive creation of a 'rarified' zone with a reduced level of military confrontation. The most dangerous types of offensive weapons would be withdrawn from this zone and mutual confidence-building measures would be taken. This approach is in line with the earlier proposals by Czechoslovakia and the GDR to create a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. The Czechoslovak proposals accords with the decisions of the Budapest and Berlin meetings of the Warsaw treaty's Political Consultative Committee".

Proposed GDR Meeting Backed

*LD031528 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"It was learned here with interest about the constituent meeting in Berlin of the national committee for the holding in the GDR capital of an international meeting for the creation of nuclear-free zones on June 20-22", Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a press briefing here today. He stressed that the appeal adopted at this meeting and signed by Erich Honecker had been received in the Soviet capital.

The Soviet Union supports the creation of nuclear-free zones, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed. It is certainly both useful and timely for representatives of various countries to exchange views and experience on the problem of creating such zones, he went on. Gerasimov said the USSR supported the idea of holding this international meeting for the creation of nuclear-free zones and was prepared to give assistance to the holding of this meeting.

Cypriot Statement Hailed

*LD031523 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"The programme statement by the new President of Cyprus Georgios Vasilios outlining the tasks of the new government's foreign

policy activities has been studied in Moscow", a press briefing here today was told by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

"It follows from the statement that continuity of the principled political course of non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus remains. According to the president's statement Cyprus will contribute to the cause of strengthening international security, averting the threat of nuclear war and will give support to the struggle of peoples for national liberation", the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "These tasks of the foreign policy activities of the new government of the Republic of Cyprus, set forth by President Georgios Vasilou, are consonant with the USSR's principled line in these questions".

The Soviet spokesman also noted that the position in favour of convening an international conference within the framework of the United Nations Organisation to settle the external aspects of the Cyprus question, expressed by Georgios Vasilou, has Moscow's full understanding and support.

'Gossip' on Cosmonaut Decried

*LD031408 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov today called attention to gossip and concoctions spread by mass media in some Western countries over the state of health of Soviet Cosmonaut Yuriy Romanenko following his record-long mission aboard the orbiting platform Mir.

Speaking at a briefing here today, Gerasimov, chief of the ministry's Information Directorate, said the newspapers LA STAMPA, LA REPUBBLICA and some others had been especially active in that campaign.

"We are gratified that it is not, as a rule, Moscow-based correspondents that have been making this kind of 'discoveries'. LA REPUBBLICA, for example, has written about a 'dramatic deterioration' of Romanenko's health, quoting Gaetano Rotondo, chief physician at the Aeronautica research center.

"One would think that this signor has examined Romanenko or has had access to corresponding medical data. It has turned out, however, that he has not even been visiting the USSR and has simply invented all that," the spokesman said.

"Yuriy Romanenko is now back from his vacation in Kislovodsk and he's agreed to take part in our briefing," he added.

The newsmen were then addressed by spaceman Romanenko.

"I like journalists and respect them, just as I like and respect all earthlings. The falsehoods appearing in a number of papers about my condition cannot put a question mark over your reputation as objective suppliers of information about this country and its achievements in space," Yuriy Romanenko said.

"I hope this briefing will convince you that I am fit as a fiddle. No complex medical experiments are needed to see this. I hope you will honestly report this in the countries you represent."

Romanenko said the Mir platform had various facilities helping to offset the adverse effects of zero gravity on humans.

"It is easy to get about in weightlessness, but the latter is a very tender and a very formidable beast which has to be battled tirelessly throughout the flight," he continued.

Detailing the means helping man's subsequent adaptation to conditions on earth, the spaceman said: "First of all, it is the right regimen, balanced diet, including water intake, psychological support, special-purpose physical exercise equipment making it possible to work out regularly till the end of the mission, and medical preparations."

"Soviet medicine," Romanenko said, "has gained a lot of experience enabling us to fly for as long as a year and get back to earth in perfect health."

Romanenko said that on one of his last days in Kislovodsk he had been visited by a STERN magazine correspondent who had been so interested in his health that he had asked the cosmonaut to do some physical exercises, like pushups.

"I did fifteen of them on my left hand and suggested swapping roles," Romanenko continued. "The reporter first did some pushups using his both hands and when he tried it with just one hand, he fell flat on the floor."

"So I'm feeling fine, although I had to work out hard for that during the space flight. We were performing the full physical exercise program developed for us by our specialists. It was tough, but indispensable."

Romanenko Addresses Foreign Ministry Briefing

*LD031816 Moscow TASS in English 1749 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy reports: A rather unexpected and lively briefing was held today at the Press Centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was addressed by Yuriy Romanenko, USSR pilot-cosmonaut, whose health, according to some Western mass media organs,

specifically, the Italian newspapers LA STAMPA and LA REPUBBLICA, had 'dramatically deteriorated' after the record-long flight on board the Mir-Kvant orbital complex.

It was enough to look at the smiling face of Romanenko to realize how groundless such assertions were. Speaking at the briefing, he pointed out that he respected and loved journalists, the same as all the "residents of the earth", as he put it. "The falsehood that appeared in some newspapers about the state of my health cannot put in a bad light your reputation of objective suppliers of information about this country, about our accomplishments in space exploration", he said.

Romanenko told journalists about a visit to Kislovodsk where the cosmonauts were having a rest of a correspondent of the STERN magazine who asked him to do some physical exercises. [sentence as received] "I pushed up on my left arm 15 times and suggested that he do the same. He pushed up on two arms, but when he tried to push up on one arm he fell on the floor," he said. The audience responded to the story with general laughter.

From a conversation about the allegedly "ruined health" of Romanenko they passed over to more serious matters. Romanenko said that all the manned flights were made in the interests of progress of humanity in general. He pointed out in this connection that Soviet space medicine had accumulated enormous experience that permitted cosmonauts to stay on board spacecraft for a year and to return to the earth in perfect health. The Soviet cosmonaut expressed confidence that if preventive measures against the impact of weightlessness were taken, human organism could sustain a flight to Mars and back to the earth. However, technical aspects of the flight remain to be thoroughly developed.

When asked to what extent his record-long flight pursued military aims, Romanenko recalled that citizens of other countries, including France, had taken part in Soviet space programs. They could well evaluate the orientation of the programs. Romanenko emphasized that Soviet programs were exclusively of peaceful nature and served progress of the whole of humanity.

Romanenko spoke out in favour of the realization of joint Soviet-American projects in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. "This would melt the old ice of the 'cold war' and would bring out two nations closer together. It would be a major gain for our countries", Romanenko said. He answered in an affirmative a question if he would accept a NASA invitation to take part in a joint flight within the framework of the shuttle program. Stepan Bogodyazh, head of a department of the USSR Main Agency for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the Needs of National Economy and Scientific Research (Glavkosmos) who took part in the briefing added: "Soon we shall have a Soviet shuttle. We are going through the concluding stage of the trials."

After discussing serious questions the briefing returned to a humorous mood. Romanenko said that he had composed 25 songs during the flight. They were a kind of a diary. "When on the earth, I prefer to express my feelings in prose, especially at press conferences", he said. He approved of the intention of some of the journalists present at the briefing to take part in a space flight. "Every cosmonaut is both a representative of the press and a TV operator," he said smiling.

Meeting of Balkan Foreign Ministers Reviewed

PM031005 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 88
Morning Edition p 5

[L. Kolosov dispatch: "Reassuring Start"]

[Text] Belgrade—The meeting of Balkan countries' foreign ministers in Belgrade has ended. Representatives from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia spent 3 days in the capital's Palace of Congresses discussing a wide range of problems for a very definite purpose—to find new ways and possibilities for strengthening good-neighborliness and developing multilateral cooperation in the Balkans.

Starting with the welcoming speech by L. Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, and ending with speeches by the six Balkan states' foreign ministers, real proposals were heard in the auditorium concerning the possibilities for a considerable expansion of economic, trade, scientific, technical, cultural, and many other spheres of relations.

Acknowledging that the Balkan states are lagging behind Europe in economic development, B. Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, proposed pooling efforts to intensify industrial production, for this, according to him, will play the key role in the region's future progress. To this end, he said, we could proceed even now to the conclusion of long-term trade and economic agreements, create joint production enterprises in free customs zones, reduce technical normatives and standardization to a common denominator, organize close cooperation in the shipping sphere, and think, finally, about creating a unified Balkan market of "the Six...." Turkish Foreign Minister M. Yilmaz declared that "...the spirit of Helsinki must be the basis of development in the Balkans," for only such an approach can lead to the ultimate goal, that is, the creation of a zone of friendship, mutual understanding, trust, and good-neighborliness on the peninsula." [quotation marks as published] The minister reported that a Turkish-Bulgarian intergovernmental protocol was signed in Belgrade on 23 February on the creation of a mechanism for settling problems that exist between the two countries. He emphasized that this event is a reassuring example of fruitful cooperation between two states with different political systems. "It is extremely necessary for the Balkans," he said, "to rid themselves of the ultranationalist, historically negative legacy of the past and of the prejudices that still exist." M. Yilmaz

proposed holding a meeting of the Balkan states' economics ministers, which could be held in Turkey.... Speaking of the problem of national minorities in the region's countries, Albanian Foreign Minister R. Malile voiced the idea that national minorities must be turned from a factor for increasing tension, which is what they were in the past, into a factor for stability within each individual country, thereby promoting cooperation between neighboring states. The minister proposed starting up a "Commission of Balkan Mutual Understanding," which would include parliamentarians, writers, journalists, and representatives of mass organizations from the six Balkan countries.

There was virtually no speech at the Belgrade meeting which did not touch to some extent and from one viewpoint or another on the most important political question: turning the Balkan peninsula into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons. None of the meeting's participants had any doubt that this is an urgent question. When? There are different views on this. But the chief thing is that the problem of the "nuclear-free Balkans" has been posed by life itself, and there is no getting away from resolving it.

Did the Belgrade meeting end successfully? There are no doubts about this. A joint concluding document was adopted which defines the main areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans, including the further development of contacts among the countries of this region at all levels. It is evidently possible to agree with the words of Bulgarian Foreign Minister P. Mladenov, who said: "At this stage, it would be sufficient to generalize the specific proposals on the areas and nature of all-Balkan cooperation. If we achieve this, we will have the right to say that the first step has been taken."

Well, indeed, the first step has already been taken....

UN Security Council Discusses Africa Situation *LD040950 Moscow TASS in English 0731 GMT 4 Mar 88*

[Text] New York March 4 TASS—The U.N. Security Council, called on Thursday for an urgent meeting at the request of the group of African states, started discussing the sharply aggravated situation in South Africa.

The brutal reprisals the South African authorities launched against the native population by proclaiming a ban on the activities of political, trade union and other mass organizations are a challenge to the international community advocating elimination of the disgraceful apartheid system, said at the meeting Tom Obaleh Kargbo, chairman of the group of African states at the U.N. and permanent representative of Sierra Leone to the U.N.

Domestic reprisals of the authorities have developed into a sway of state terror, pointed out Neo Mnumzana, representative of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. The Security Council should immediately apply all-embracing U.N. sanctions against the apartheid regime balking a compromise. Masambra Sarra, permanent representative of Senegal to the U.N., called unprecedented Pretoria's offensive on the paltry rights enjoyed by that country's population. It is necessary to take adequate measures, he said, to grant the freedom of operation to all banned organizations.

Joseph Garba (Nigeria), chairman for the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid, sternly denounced the rampant terror and arbitrary actions, as well as a desire of the South African racist regime to perpetuate apartheid and called for doing everything possible to stop its atrocities.

Delegate Cited on Airport Terrorism Talks *PM030955 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 88 Second Edition p 5*

[Report by unnamed own correspondent: "Barrier To Terrorism"]

[Text] Montreal, 26 Feb—An international conference on the law of the air has ended here. Delegates from more than 80 countries elaborated an international document on combating terrorist attacks at airports. As USSR delegation leader M. Timofeyev, deputy minister of civil aviation, told your correspondent, when the document comes into force, essentially all types of unlawful interference in the activities of civil aviation will be covered by international agreements.

Briefs

Cooperative Research on Danube

Bratislava, 3 Mar (TASS)—A scientific research expedition, which started today, is aimed at obtaining data about the current condition of the water of the Danube, its level of pollution, and its capability of self-purification. Over 130 scientists from all countries adjacent to the Danube, the GDR, and a few international organizations will be studying the entire ecosystem of the Danube during an expedition aboard the Soviet ship "Amur." The expedition will last until 25 March. The ship is equipped with the latest laboratories and instruments, making it possible to obtain microbiological, physical, and other data regarding the condition of the waters of one of Europe's main rivers over its entire length—from its sources to its estuary. [Text] *[Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 3 Mar 88 LD]*

United States & Canada

Shultz 'Shuttle Diplomacy' Continues

Talks With Husayn

LD032116 Moscow TASS in English 2021 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] London March 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Sergey Terekhov:

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has opened here the second round of talks with Jordanian King Husayn in an attempt at soliciting support for the so-called "new initiative" of the USA for an Arab-Israeli settlement. The first such attempt ended in a failure when during their first meeting in London last Tuesday the Jordanian monarch rejected the U.S. side's proposal. According to the BBC TV news desk, the second round of shuttle diplomacy by the U.S. secretary of state has been started on President Reagan's personal instructions and is a reflection of the wish of the USA to restore its reputation of an arbiter in the Middle East.

There has been no official announcement on the details of the fresh American proposals, yet, in the opinion of local observers, they boil down to a revision of the Camp David accords, which have discredited themselves, while the old principle of reliance on separate deals remains.

Solovyev on Talks

OW040803 Moscow Television Service in Russian
2240 GMT 3 Mar 88

[From the NOVOSTI newscast; Vsevolod Solovyev commentary]

[Text] Press agencies reported that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will resume 3 March his talks in the Middle East. Our commentary follows.

[Solovyev] Hello, Comrades. This decision on the return of Shultz to the Middle East was made by President Reagan. He met Shultz in Brussels the day before. The secretary of state reported to the President on the result of his talks in Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, which he held last week and early this week.

Apparently, the U.S. Administration believes certain factors arose which offer hope for solving the Middle East conflict, therefore diplomatic efforts should be continued to finally find a formula for the beginning of Arab-Israeli talks. Ideas proposed by Shultz to his partners in the talks do not differ much from the Camp David ideas which resulted in the Egypt-Israel bilateral agreements. The Americans propose a stage-by-stage solution. Their plan comprises the following: In the beginning there should be talks on intermediate self-government for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories; then, after 6 months, new talks, which, according to Shultz, should be based on the principle of

land in exchange for peace and should bring about a long-term solution. In other words, the plan is to make the occupied territories autonomous while retaining Israeli supremacy. As the secretary of state said, the implementation of this plan will require years, but he nevertheless sees it as offering considerable hope.

So far only Egypt's president has supported Shultz's proposal. In the Israeli Government the U.S. plan brought about differences. Prime Minister Shamir rejects it. Syria and Jordan declared that Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and an international conference for a peaceful solution of the Middle East situation should be the basis for any solution.

Maybe Shultz, having again departed for the Middle East, has a task for himself: to convince those who disagree with his plan.

Arrives in Israel

LD041038 Moscow TASS in English 1001 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo March 4 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Israel last night. He is to make a tour of Middle Eastern countries. The MENA news agency reports that he is to pay a brief visit to Cairo today. In the course of his visit he will have negotiations with the Egyptian leadership.

He held negotiations with King Husayn of Jordan in London yesterday. Shortly before that Shultz already visited Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt where he set forth the American Administration's stand on questions of the Middle East settlement. But none of those countries supported Washington's proposals. Arab states rightfully noted that American proposals did not lead to a final comprehensive and fair settlement of the problem and served above all Tel Aviv's interests.

The Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir demanded from the Arabs ever new concessions and refused even to discuss the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people.

In the course of the current trip George Shultz intends to visit states of the region and to try once again to enlist their support for the American proposals. But in progressive Arab circles it is underlined that Shultz has actually brought nothing new. Washington's refusal to recognize the right of the whole Palestinian people to self-determination and to enter into negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—shows that the American Administration is not interested in a fair settlement of the Middle East Problem but is only trying to assist its "strategic partners"—Israel.

Variant of 'Camp David'

LD041037 Moscow TASS in English 0917 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] London March 4 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and King Husayn of Jordan have held their second meeting in London.

Shultz continued his attempts to enlist Husayn's support for the so-called U.S. new initiative on the Arab-Israeli settlement. His first attempt failed when Husayn turned down the American proposals during their meeting in London last Tuesday.

Though the details of the new American proposals have never been officially announced, observers believe that they are nothing more than a modified variant of the failed Camp-David agreements and are based on the old principle of separate deals. Specifically, the United States is still refusing to recognise the PLO as a participant in the settlement process.

Pentagon To Reuse Intermediate-Range Warheads

LD032132 Moscow TASS in English 2116 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 3 TASS—The Pentagon opts for using nuclear warheads to be removed from intermediate- and shorter-range missiles under the INF Treaty on weaponry systems not covered by the agreement.

The existence of such plans has been officially acknowledged for the first time by Assistant to the Secretary of Defence for Atomic Energy Robert Barker.

Speaking before the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday, he stressed the Pentagon's desire to preserve these warheads as they were without dismantling them.

According to the high-ranking Pentagon official, this use of medium-range missile warheads would help save between 500 million and one billion dollars which the dismantling and production of new warheads would require with the use of remaining components.

Baltic Freedom Document Called 'Anti-Soviet'

LD031453 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1040 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Washington, 3 Mar (TASS)—TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko reports: The U.S. Congress has organized yet another crude anti-Soviet provocation. As is clear from the official "Congressional Record" bulletin, a resolution on proclaiming 14 June 1988 the "Day of Baltic Freedom" has been forwarded for examination to the House of Representatives. It has come from the Senate, which automatically rubber-stamped it on 26

February, "without a vote count". Now this document, slapped together in the best "cold war" traditions, has been forwarded to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Unceremoniously interfering in the USSR's internal affairs, the self-styled champions of "Baltic Freedom" conceived the idea of lecturing to the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. They have become voluble indeed about "violations of human rights" allegedly taking place in the USSR, about the "absence of political and religious freedoms" in the Baltic republics. Have the U.S. legislators ever been authorized by anyone to come out with statements about what the peoples of the Soviet Baltic republics want and what they desire? One would search in vain for an answer to this question in the resolution, which is permeated through and through with the venom of anti-Sovietism. "The defenders of rights" from Capitol Hill have gone so far as to demand that the Soviet republics should be "liberated from the USSR's domination", even promising to raise the question of "Baltic freedom" at none other than the United Nations.

The "Day of Baltic Freedom" is not the only date in the U.S. political calendar which the U.S. legislators intend to use in the psychological war against the USSR. Another resolution—concerning proclaiming 21 March as the "Day of Afghanistan"—has simultaneously been forwarded for examination by the House of Representatives. The authors of this document, who have become small-scale experts in anti-Soviet rhetoric, call for marking that day with "appropriate ceremonies and actions". There are no prizes for guessing for what kind of "ceremonies" and "actions" this resolution calls. It is clearly aimed at artificially aggravating the Afghan problem precisely at a time when real chances to have it settled have begun to take shape.

The question arises: What is the purpose of these crude propaganda sorties? Moreover, this is taking place precisely at a time when, following the conclusion of the INF Treaty, a real path to improving Soviet-U.S. relations has begun to take shape. Behind all this are clearly to be found very influential U.S. forces which strive at all costs to preserve the confrontation course that has already become their second nature.

U.S. 'Pressure' on Panama Called 'Unscrupulous'

LD031403 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0830 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Nikolay Agayants commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has recommended that Congress put Panama on the list of countries that cannot claim U.S. aid. Such states as Afghanistan and Syria, whose independent policies do not suit the Washington administration, have also been blacklisted. Here is a commentary by Nikolay Agayants.

Judging from the reports which have been arriving at our office, the clouds are gathering over Panama. Washington continues to exercise pressure on that country along all channels, seeking to destabilize the legitimate government. All this is clearly being done in response to the refusal of the Panamanian Government to tolerate Uncle Sam's dictate, his unscrupulous meddling in the internal affairs of the Republic.

Political and economic pressures have been applied: Anything will do for the United States, including open blackmail, with threats of direct action by the Pentagon's brass hats who clearly state that Panama, on whose territory the great canal linking the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean is located, is of enormous strategic interest for the U.S. Armed Forces.

As reported by an NBC correspondent, political developments in Panama are nowhere else monitored as closely as at the headquarters of the U.S. Army Southern Command, which is situated in the canal area. Incidentally, a USAF base, a training school for special troops, and other military facilities, which the Americans would be very reluctant to relocate—are also found there.

I do not think what is involved here is just emotions or that the Panamanian Government intends to conduct policies independently from Washington. The essence of the present anti-Panamanian campaign lies in the fact that the United States, seeking to retain a U.S. presence in the area of the canal, dreams of securing firm control over all Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is known that the agreement whereby the canal is to be handed over to Panama by the year 2000 also envisages the removal of all military bases and Pentagon installations from its territory. The United States is not going to like that. So, insistent appeals have been heard there recently demanding revision of the U.S.-Panamanian accords. In these conditions, the position of General Noriega, commander in chief of Panama's National Defense Forces, and the Panamanian Government, which stands for strict adherence to the canal obligations by Washington, has become for the United States a serious obstacle on the path of fulfilment of its far-reaching plans.

The result is that a real crusade against the obstinate Panamanians had been announced in Washington. The talk of preparations for a large-scale invasion of Panama by the United States to impose a government on the Panamanian people, which would willingly and without complaint defend U.S. interests, has been getting louder and louder. The Republic's president, Manuel Solis Palma, called the anti-Panamanian campaign unleashed by Washington violent aggression. In his words, the Panamanian Government intends to oppose the actions of the U.S. Administration, which are directed at strangling the country economically, and will fight resolutely for preserving the national independence. The situation in and around Panama remains extremely tense.

Naval Special Forces To Use Mini-Submarines
LD032141 Moscow TASS in English 2109 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 3 TASS—The U.S. Navy has 15 miniature submarines intended for data-gathering and subversive operations of American special forces in all parts of the world.

This information has been provided to newsmen by general James Lindsay placed in charge of the recently established special operations command.

Two- and six-seat versions of combat mini-sub exist. They are brought into an area of operations in flooded compartments of large atomic submarines.

The mini-sub then separate from the mother ships and crawl towards the coast of the "enemy" with a speed of about 10 kilometres an hour.

Besides U.S. naval commando forces, Seals, mini-sub could be used by Green Berets and other special units of the U.S. Armed Forces.

White House Drug Abuse Conference Held
LD032228 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Follows commentary by Yevgeniy Babenko, a TASS political news analyst:

If the White House conference for drug-free America has just ended in Washington, is destined to go down into history, then it will be only an example of general ferment and confusion among that country's great minds as to how this national calamity should be fought against.

The conference opened with the President's pompous assurance that the White House was beginning to win its crusade against the drugs. It was carried on by the admission that no success in stopping the drugs had been made. This statement was made by none other than Congressman Charles Rangel, who heads the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. But the conference called by the White House ended with the statement by the mayor of the American capital Marion Barry, who said that the government was fighting a losing battle against drug addiction and abuse of alcoholic drinks.

It is absolutely impossible to draw any sensible conclusion from all the above-said statements. The more so that the anti-narcotic forum in Washington's Omni Shoreham Hotel was held against the background of a fresh powerful wave of violence generated by drug addiction. Last January alone, 37 persons were killed in the Federal District of Columbia, in whose territory Washington stands. Among the 26 biggest cities of the United States, the U.S. capital ranks now first as regards the number of death cases caused by heroin and other

narcotics. There was a time when people in the USA spent on food and clothes more than they did on cars. Now the Americans spend on drugs more than they do on cars. Even according to the clearly understated official statistics, the passion for narcotics costs the national economy of the United States 110 billion dollars annually.

In the opinion of Peter Lungo, director of the programme for the treatment of young drug addicts, the campaign under the slogan "Say no to drug addiction" is no longer enough. Something should be done, he believes.

What can, really, be done? The National Drug Enforcement Policy Board clearly does not cope with that task. The customs service has announced that the officers of that department will take away as of March 15 the passports from those American citizens who try to bring drugs into the country.

A fresh proposal on that issue has been made by Secretary of Education William Bennett. Addressing a press conference in Washington on Wednesday, he proposed that...the U.S. Armed Forces be broadly used in the campaign to combat the production of narcotics abroad and their delivery into the United States. It is commonly known that the Pentagon and narcotics are two things quite close to one another. According to the House Subcommittee on Defence Appropriations nearly a quarter of the privates and sergeants of the U.S. Army, Navy and the Marines admit that they are under the effect of narcotics in the discharge of their service duties. Nearly 15 per cent of them do not deny that this negatively tells on their ability and effectiveness in the discharge of their direct functions.

Aren't they going to use these people from now on to combat drug addiction?

Evangelist Pat Robertson, who is running for President, has gone even farther than the Secretary of Education in suggesting that the Pentagon could be used in the campaign against heroin. He promised that if he won the presidential race, he would order that planes crossing into U.S. air space with a cargo of narcotics be brought down, i.e. what he proposes is that aimed fire be opened...on friendly planes.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is participating to this day and making profit on drug trafficking on an international scale, which was pointed out repeatedly, in particular, by such a well-known publication as the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT. To this day the CIA uses private air companies for the dispatch of arms, for example, to Central America and taking cocaine out of there, for that matter, in the same planes which deliver weapons to the contras. For the benefit of those who seriously intend to elaborate on Pat Robertson's idea, we will name these air companies: the Southern Air, Evergreen International and Summit Aviation.... Unless,

God forbid, they are brought down while crossing the border of the United States somewhere approaching it from the Caribbean. How many experienced pilots would the Langley secret service lose in this case?

It is hard to suggest an idea to the participants in the Washington conference, since they themselves have proved to be absolutely unable to propose any new methods in the national campaign to combat the narcotic poison. But the idea of setting the Pentagon and the CIA against one another in the field of drug trafficking seems to be too much.

Reagan Role Questioned

LD031316 Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—TASS news analyst Dmitriy Yakubov writes:

The American and world public was amazed at a statement that President Reagan made in Washington at a conference on drug addiction. He said that the United States started winning a crusade for America free of narcotics. What is amazing is not only and not so much the optimism of this statement as the fact that it was made precisely by President Reagan.

The American public still remembers well the circumstances of the investigation of the Iran-contra affair. Hardly anyone has doubts about the President's moral responsibility for that scandal. The Irangate illuminated direct relationship between the supply of narcotics to the USA and the activity of White House officials supplying armaments to Nicaraguan contras.

Facts show that the underground drug trafficking was the most important source of the financing of secret operations masterminded from the White House. The U.S. press described in detail the ranch of American John Hull in Costa Rica which served as an important transshipment post in the CIA's operations "narcotics—armaments". It was part of an entire system set up on the funds of the CIA in order to supply funds and armaments for a campaign of violence and terror in Nicaragua. Detailed information about that is cited in a lawsuit instituted against the U.S. federal authorities by the Christian institute, a public organization coming out in defence of the U.S. Constitution.

That organization has documented proof that the financing of arms deliveries through the contraband of narcotics started back in the sixties. It was then that the White House "secret team" got in touch with traders in opium in South East Asian countries, John Singlaub, now retired general, then supervised those operations. His associate was Oliver North, then lieutenant, and now a lieutenant-colonel. He was one of the main players in the Iran-contra affair.

In the recent years Singlaub has been supervising a fund-raising campaign for Nicaraguan contras. Is there any reason to be surprised that contracts such as existed with drug traffickers in Asia were established with traffickers in drugs in Latin America?

The question arises if the President in such conditions should be so optimistic in his assessments of the state of affairs in combating the spread of drug addiction in the USA. Facts show that there are no grounds for such optimism.

Further Report on U.S. Embassy Fire

*PM031447 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English
No 9, 28 Feb 88 p 5*

[Viktor Aleksandrov and Dmitriy Sidorov article: "Visa for Water? Postscript to a Fire at the U.S. Embassy"]

[Text] Last week, February 17, Moscow fire fighters received a telephone call reporting a fire in the old building of the U.S. Embassy in Tchaikovsky Street. The officer on duty noted the time 14:46. Four minutes later ten fire engines arrived. MOSCOW NEWS reporters arrived 15 minutes later.

We saw smoke coming out of several fifth-floor windows at the rear of the building. Jets of water came bursting through the smoke falling to the ground like rain. In the yard, Embassy staff were using a lift to bring down people and various loads. There was no evidence of panic or fuss. Everybody worked quietly.

"Where were you when the alarm was raised?" One of us asked two young men and a girl wearing an apron who stood nearby.

"No interviews here! Look for Counsellor Philip Brown. He's the only one authorized to give information."

We found the Culture and Press Counsellor in charge of fire glasnost at the front side of the building, surrounded by a crowd of Embassy staff looking calm and unruffled. They were recalling the previous 1977 fire, where the U.S. authorities accused us Russians of every mortal sin.

"Mr Brown, do you think the Soviet side is in any way implicated in the fire?"

"In no way at all."

"How do you assess the performance of the Soviet fire brigade?"

"No doubt they did everything they could."

The fire was put out within twenty minutes. Seeing people with glowing faces dressed in black costumes very much like space suits going out of the front door, we turned for information to Colonel Nikolay Ivanov, Chief of Moscow's Fire-Fighting Department. Here is his story:

"For several minutes after we arrived they would not let us in, they were apparently waiting for permission from their chiefs. By the time they got this, the fire was raging in three rooms and a corridor. Our team worked efficiently and promptly, laying three high-pressure hoses to localize and then extinguish the fire. Nobody suffered."

There was a commotion in front of the Embassy when a crowd of reporters surrounded the official spokesman Richard Gilbert. Our Western colleagues were especially keen on finding out whether or not the Soviet firemen broke into any security-sensitive offices.

"The fire did not hit the offices," the Embassy spokesman explained, "so, the Soviet firemen did not get into them. We have no complaints about their performance. Embassy guards helped put out the fire. The ambassador was out at an official reception. As soon as he received the news, he came back and stayed on until the fire was over."

We could have put a fullstop here if it were not for a contribution from Edward Baumeister, an American journalist currently working at MOSCOW NEWS on an exchange. After our return he raised the question of whether or not there was an official document regulating the actions of Soviet firemen in such cases. He found out that there isn't. Moreover, only a top-level Embassy official is authorized to call the fire brigade. This must have been why the team had not been allowed in immediately upon arrival.

"As a taxpayer, I can't help worrying about the way my money is spent on the upkeep of government offices," Edward said jokingly after his mini investigation.

Northeast Asia

U.S. 'SR-71' Violates North Korean Air Space
*LD031714 Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 TASS—Today a U.S. reconnaissance plane SR-71 has invaded the DPRK's air space over the Republic's western coast. According to a report of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, ten instances of U.S. air espionage against the DPRK have been registered this year. These provocative actions by the United States are evidence that Washington has no stake in a relaxation of tensions in the Korean peninsula, the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY said.

DPRK's Kim Il-song Meets Trade Union Delegates
LD041001 Moscow TASS in English 0810 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 TASS—General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the DPRK President Kim Il-song today received a Soviet trade union delegation, led by Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. The delegation is on an official friendly visit here at the invitation of the Central Committee of the United Trade Unions of Korea.

Speaking of the international situation, Kim Il-song has underlined that the personal contribution of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev to the cause of consolidating peace is highly appreciated in the DPRK. We shall support the USSR's new efforts aimed at creating a nuclear-free world, said Kim Il-song.

Stepan Shalayev dwelt on active participation of the Soviet working people and trade unions in carrying out the CPSU's course of reconstruction and acceleration of the socio-economic development of the country, realisation of a radical economic reform and democratisation. The Korean side noted the successful development of relations between the working class and trade unions of the two countries and expressed gratitude for the USSR's assistance in the construction of major national economic projects of the DPRK.

Dmitriyev on Possible U.S. Sanctions on Toshiba
OW041148 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200
GMT 2 Mar 88

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] According to a KYODO report, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee has decided to include in the omnibus trade bill under deliberation a sanction clause against Toshiba Corp. Our commentator Dmitriyev has this to say:

The Senate attempt to bring sanctions not only against Toshiba Machine Co. but also the whole Toshiba Corp. is apparently a selfish one, although the Toshiba incident itself essentially reflects selfish U.S. motives. Many people have commented on it, including observers at the time of the Cocom general meeting last July. Some observers at the time said that pressure from protectionist lobbying was responsible for the strong U.S. reaction against Toshiba Machine Co., which had exported machine tools to the Soviet Union. They noted that the protectionist lobby, dissatisfied with Japan's trade offensive, came to know about the Toshiba incident and decided that it was the time to strike back and punish Japan, a powerful rival.

It was in the high technology area, the area of the severest Japan-U.S. friction, where Toshiba Corp. had launched its economic offensive. The United States complains about what it calls a limited U.S. share in the Japanese semiconductor market; it wants to acquire a wider access to it. Meanwhile, Toshiba is one of the largest makers and suppliers of semiconductors for the United States; its customers including such electronic giants as Honeywell and Apple. Of Toshiba's \$22.65 billion in exports for 1986, exports to the United States accounted for approximately \$4 billion. This explains how heavy the blow to Toshiba would be if a U.S. Senate decision should clamp trade restrictions on it.

The decision may be meant to bring pressures to bear on Japan in the semiconductor negotiations. At the same time, however, it, like the Toshiba incident itself as a whole, constitutes part of a much broader context, namely U.S. activities seeking leadership in high technology.

Japan and the United States will resume negotiations on revising the science and technology agreement on Thursday. Negotiators so far have failed to reach an accord as U.S. authorities sought to impose secrecy on all Japanese high technologies in the name of security. Such a security clause is evidently an excuse. The United States is seeking to turn international exchanges in science and technology into a one-way flow of information. There is no need to explain which way it will be if the U.S. demand is met.

At an academic symposium on 29 February, Hiroshi Inose of the Science-Technology Information Center of Japan criticized the U.S. demand about the security clause, noting that it constitutes a new type of protectionism. Commenting on the present status of Japan-U.S. science-technology exchanges, he compared the U.S. attitude to a marathon runner physically obstructing a rival in a race he knows he cannot win. The Toshiba incident is clearly a case where a similar obstruction is being made.

U.S., Japan Sign Military Spending Protocol
LD031314 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo March 3 TASS—A protocol on a revision of the Japanese-U.S. agreement on Japan's expenditures for the maintenance of the U.S. Armed Forces in the country has been signed here. Under the document, Tokyo fully takes upon itself to pay for the work of 21,000 Japanese employed at the Pentagon's bases. More than 40,000 million yen are to be used for the purposes next financial year which begins on April 1.

Until now the Japanese side allocated only a half of appropriations under this item. Tokyo's overall financial contribution to the maintenance of the U.S. expeditionary corps on the Japanese islands will total 120,300 million yen in the new financial year, almost 10 per cent more than under the current state budget.

When visiting Washington in January this year, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita promised to U.S. President Ronald Reagan to make up for a considerable part of funds being spent for the Pentagon's needs in Japan. A decision to this effect was taken in response to the U.S. Administration's calls for an increase in Japan's contribution to 'ensuring the security and collective interests of the West'.

Hokkaido Japanese-Soviet Amity League Set Up
OW041331 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200
3 Mar 88

[Text] The Hokkaido Prefectural Assemblymen's League for Japan-USSR Friendship has been set up in Hokkaido. The purpose of the league, which has 43 members, is to promote good-neighbor relations between Japan and the Soviet Union. One of the league's major tasks is to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in such fields as trade, economy, and culture between Hokkaido and the Soviet Far East. Mr. Kusuji Kumaya, vice speaker of the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly, has been elected president of the league.

Near East & South Asia

Afghanistan Agrees to 9-Month Troop Withdrawal

Talks 'Positive', 'Constructive'
LD031736 Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva March 3 TASS—The foreign minister of Afghanistan 'Abdul Wakil stated here today that the Afghan-Pakistani talks conducted through the mediation of the personal envoy of the U.N. secretary general in Geneva were proceeding in a positive and constructive manner and that there was hope for a final settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

Considering the wishes of the Pakistani side and also proceeding from the general spirit of the latest statements by President Najibullah and Mikhail Gorbachev the Afghan delegation announced this morning after preliminary consultations with the Soviet Union that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan could be carried out within a period of nine months with 50 percent of the Soviet contingent withdrawn within the first three months, he stated further.

'Abdul Wakil expressed hope that a successful conclusion of the talks in Geneva would facilitate the solution also of Afghanistan's internal problems.

Najibullah Writes to UN Chief

LD032308 Moscow TASS in English 2249 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] New York March 4 TASS—President Najibullah of Afghanistan has sent a letter to U.N. secretary-general asking him to contribute to a successful conclusion of the U.N.-sponsored Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva and the signing of agreements, Shah Mohammad Dost, permanent representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, said at a press conference Thursday.

The Afghan Government carried out serious preparations for the round of the negotiations that got under way in Geneva and will exert every effort to demonstrate in action its good will, he said. The Afghan people, who are worn out by heavy losses during the almost nine years of war, pin great hopes on national reconciliation and the success of the Geneva talks.

But this goal calls for the manifestation of a positive political will of the other side as well. In view of this, Shah Muhammad Dost underscored the inadmissibility of erecting new hurdles in Geneva that could hamper the signing of agreements and would lead to continued bloodshed.

Wakil Discusses Withdrawal Plan

LD032030 Moscow TASS in English 2013 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva March 3 TASS—'Abdul Wakil, member of the Political Bureau of the PDPA CC and Minister of Foreign Affairs, heading the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan in the current Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan responded to the questions of the international mass media representatives on the development of the ongoing talks today afternoon at a broad press gathering. The minister said that based on the proposal of the Pakistani side and in accordance with the pre-consultation between the Governments of Afghanistan and the USSR and in view of the spirit of the statements issued on February the 8th of the leaders of the two countries, the Afghan side today agreed on a nine-month timeframe for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Moreover, he said, based on the spirit of the statements by President Najibullah, General Secretary of the CC PDPA and Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CC CPSU it has been also agreed that 50 percent of the troops return in the first three months period of the timeframe and the remaining fifty percent during the subsequent six months period.

Thus, the minister said, the fourth instrument on inter-relationship is now finalized.

The minister of foreign affairs added that this constructive flexibility of the Afghan side had settled the issue of the troops withdrawal and that the time has now come for both sides to reach an agreement on the remaining issues and after settling put their signatures under the documents.

The minister further said that the solution of the situation around Afghanistan had fruitful effects on the process of solving internal issues through the implementation of national reconciliation policy and the creation of a coalition government and thus the Afghans are capable of ensuring peace and tranquility in their homeland.

The minister also cast light on the programme for national reconciliation, its mechanism and achievement and on its future prospects at this press conference and gave detailed answers to the questions put by journalists.

Wakil on Geneva Prospects

*LD032103 Moscow TASS in English 2055 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Geneva March 3 TASS—By TASS correspondents Yevgeniy Korzhev and Vladislav Shishlo:

Answering questions of newsmen here today, 'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan minister for foreign affairs, said that the processes of forming a coalition national unity government and settling the situation around Afghanistan through the Geneva talks are interconnected and complement one another, as it were. Success at Geneva will give an impetus to carrying on national reconciliation and forming a coalition government of national unity. On the other hand, the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, has, naturally, left a positive impact on the Geneva talks.

Touching upon the prospects for completing the Geneva talks, the minister noted that if Pakistan does not put up new obstacles in the way towards progress of the talks, real success can be made, i.e. an agreement can be reached. The fact that we have agreed to a nine-month timetable for the return of the Soviet troops home is evidence that we have the possibility to ensure our country's security and independence if an end is put to interference from the outside in Afghanistan's home affairs. We are in control of the situation in the country. Our wish for the forming of a coalition government stems from the experience accumulated over the past nine years in power and is explained by the fact that we do not wish a continuation of the war after the Soviet troops are returned home.

'Abdul Wakil stressed that the Afghan leadership had not attached any strings to the forming of a coalition government. It addressed all the ministers—members of the

preceding governments, even the leaders of the "Alliance of Seven" and other groups on that issue. It is prepared to discuss that with representatives of all sides, or with individuals.

Keshtmand Interview on Talks

*LD031706 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"Afghanistan's political leadership is prepared for a compromise with the opposite side, with all opposition quarters in order to achieve a reasonable mutually acceptable solution to Afghan affairs. And all this for the sake of putting an end to the war which is inflicting tremendous damage to the country", a NEW TIMES correspondent was told in an interview by the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand. The interview was published in the weekly's 10th issue. "Nobody has real grounds or the right to dictate terms to us or to confront us with an ultimatum", he said.

The Afghan leader condemned the stand taken by the Pakistani authorities which are setting forth new terms for settling the situation around Afghanistan. He qualified Islamabad's actions as a ploy to torpedo the Geneva accords. Besides, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said, what it is doing amounts to interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, something that the Geneva accords precisely are to stop.

The prime minister said that the Government of Afghanistan was preparing for the return of Afghan refugees after the signing of the Geneva accords. Already last year a law was adopted on returning land to former owners. But if land was distributed among other peasants under the agrarian reform a plot of land of equal value will be provided from land owned by the state.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand noted an important direction in the country's economic activity that is developing parallel to the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and bolsters it. The policy has been adopted of giving every encouragement to private enterprise and giving every assistance to it, he said, of giving it more possibilities to invest capital, especially in the productive sphere. In the pursuance of this course Afghanistan is helped by the Soviet Union which has started setting up mixed enterprises with the Afghan private sector. In these enterprises 60 per cent of the capital will belong to private businessmen while the Soviet side will supply credits and equipment to the sum of the remaining 40 per cent. Contracts have already been signed for the establishment on such terms of 50 joint enterprises in various parts of the country.

Pakistan Party Official Views Talks

*LD041137 Moscow TASS in English 1059 GMT
4 Mar 88*

[Text] Kabul March 4 TASS—Successful outcome of Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva will make for

a faster settlement of the Afghanistan situation, said Khan-Zada Masood, one of the leaders of the Pakistan People's National Party.

The BAKHTAR news agency, referring to reports from Pakistan, cites him as saying that even after the publication of the statements on Afghanistan by Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah certain circles continue attaching their strings to withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The Afghan people, tired of the bloody and fratricidal war, hope that the Geneva negotiations will bring, at last, the long-expected peace and tranquility to its long-suffering land.

Afghan Official Assesses Civilian Troops

PM031435 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
25 Feb 88 p 3

["Topical Interview" with Major General Karim Bakh, Afghan deputy defense minister and head of the territorial troops directorate, by NOVOSTI correspondent Aleksandr Trubin in Kabul: "On the Side of People's Power"; date of interview not given; first paragraph is SELSKAYA ZHIZN introduction]

[Excerpts] A meeting has taken place in Kabul between Afghan President Najibullah and commanders of units and subunits of the country's territorial troops. They include the combat detachments which broke with the extremists and went over to the government side. Aleksandr Trubin, NOVOSTI correspondent in Kabul, asked Major General Karim Bakh, deputy defense minister and head of the territorial troops directorate, to talk about the results of this meeting and its participants' role in the reconciliation process.

"The very fact of Najibullah's meeting with the command staff of the armed civilian formations demonstrates the great significance which the Afghan authorities attach to their activities," Karim Bakh stressed. "Under the present domestic political conditions the experience accumulated by the territorial troops in work to ensure peace must be used more widely. In the future too the government will give moral and material support to its voluntary allies who are defending the peacemaking course against infringements by 'the intransigents.'"

"When in 1982 in Jowzjan Province a formation numbering 1,000 men under the command of 'Abdul Ghafur Pahlavan gave itself up, this was a good sign. Counter-revolutionaries had also surrendered earlier, but in small groups. It was felt that a demarcation was occurring in the enemy camp. But as yet the war was alienating only the rank and file. The gang leaders were standing firm. The events in Jowzjan showed that a breakthrough had taken place. Soon in the little town of Mir Bacheh Kowt, in Kabul Province, a detachment numbering 2,000 men went over to the government side.

"At that time I happened to meet frequently with former gang leaders. Over several years of the war they had become convinced that bloodshed does not solve the disputed issues, it only aggravates them. The division of Afghans into opposing sides undermines the foundations of the state. More than once I heard complaints that people were tired of the tension, disorder, and uncertainty." [Passage omitted]

"The territorial forces guard almost 800 km of road. For example, they patrol many sections of the Kabul—Mazar-e Sharif road, including the section between the city of Pol-e Khomri and the northern sector of the Salang Mountain highway. I was in this region not long ago, and I met with Sayyed Mansur, commander of a regiment billeted here. At the cost of considerable casualties, his people had routed 'the intransigents.'"

"The war years have seen the emergence of gangs in the country which stand outside politics and are engaged only in robbing the local population. They operate in the provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Laghman, and others. Hundreds of completely innocent Afghans have died at the bandits' hands. Sometimes entire villages are plundered. The inhabitants who survive abandon their old haunts. But recently such tragedies have been decreasing. The territorial troops are tracking down the robbers and destroying them.

"Each day the civilian armed formations are operating more effectively. Their number is growing. In 1987, which was the year of national reconciliation, 14,000 former rebels poured into the ranks of the territorial troops. They now number over 40,000 men. This is the mighty people's force which is in favor of peace on Afghan soil.

"The commanders of the territorial troops often display initiative in bringing peace nearer. For example, Shaykh 'Ismatullah, battalion commander in Herat Province, recently made contact with a large group of refugees in Iran and persuaded them to return home. Some 5,000 people did so. Many of them expressed the desire to serve under the shaykh's command.

"Speaking at the meeting in Kabul, President Najibullah rated highly the territorial troops' activity aimed at restoring a normal life in Afghanistan. The thousands of Afghans voluntarily defending the peacemaking course of the Afghan Government will undoubtedly receive this with enthusiasm.

Officials Discuss Economic Aid to Afghanistan

Kirgiz Assistance

LD040848 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 3, BAKHTAR—We hope to strengthen our friendship and brotherhood with Afghan people and wish them further progress and wellbeing.

This was said by Mukun Aseyinov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Kirgiz SSR and member of Central Committee of Kirgiz Communist Party who was recently here leading a delegation on an official visit.

He adds, the people of Afghanistan should now take up work implements instead of arms. Our message to the people of Afghanistan is that they should begin as soon as possible tackling the internal issues and formation of a coalition government through peaceful means and (?understanding) and have to achieve the final victory of national reconciliation policy.

"We support the policy of the Afghan Government and the statements of leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Union on the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan in the framework of Geneva agreements. The statements demonstrate the concrete stand of Afghan and Soviet peoples as regard the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan. I hope the Geneva agreements will be signed as soon as possible", he said.

"It seems to me that work is underway here for strengthening the already established multi-party system and creation of a coalition government. (?Therefore), identical points of view of leaders of different parties and [words indistinct] help the realization of national reconciliation policy, cessation of war and bloodshed in the country. Political parties of Afghanistan can serve their people and country with full unity".

He continued "our trip to Afghanistan was mainly for the purpose of signing new protocols on direct cooperation, meeting [words indistinct] leaders and collecting information on the problems, needs and proposals of residents of Bamian and Vardak Provinces with whom our republic has entered into direct cooperation programmes.

We have come here, he added, to sign protocol for 1988 between the aforementioned cities of Kirgiz SSR and provinces of Afghanistan and also to study what the people of the provinces have achieved through our cooperation and assistance.

"Undoubtedly our assistance to the two provinces would increase in the future," he said. It is better to know first of all the main needs of local residents. For instance, we shall give agro-machinery to the provinces and admit in the Kirgiz SSR youth for training in short-term courses as agricultural cadres. Now we have been requested to equip in Vardak" he added.

"We have decided to build a school for 340 children of martyrs of the April Revolution in our Republic. Priority is given to children from Vardak and Bamian. If possible children from other provinces of Afghanistan would be admitted as well. There are at present 100 Afghan children of martyrs enrolled in a school in Kand city of our Republic. Teaching is done by Afghan teachers.

"On the whole we are ready to render every assistance to Afghanistan freely. The argument that the Soviet Union seeks to enhance its political and economic influence in Afghanistan is absolutely false and sinful. Our aim is consolidation of peace and progress of Afghan people. We ourselves need manpower and experts in our own country. If the government and people of Afghanistan do not ask, we needn't send our experts here.

I have good impressions of Afghanistan, particularly the provinces of Vardak and Bamian. I found the people of Afghanistan hard working and courageous. We are also among the Asian peoples. We have close and common traditions and even as well as a common language", he concluded.

Trade Union Ties

LD031412 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Soviet-Afghan economic and cultural cooperation continues to broaden. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando reports from Kabul:

In conditions where the policy of national reconciliation is being implemented in Afghanistan, the growth of our country's international assistance in the socioeconomic and cultural fields is an important factor in solving many problems caused by the continuing undeclared war against Afghanistan. Regarding Soviet-Afghan cooperation as a whole, a new trend has appeared of late—the establishment and direct implementation of direct contacts. Such direct contacts have been established between many republics and oblasts in our country and all 29 provinces in Afghanistan. Direct contacts between Soviet and Afghan organizations, including public organizations, have also noticeably strengthened recently. Within the framework of such contacts, a solemn ceremony for the handing over of gratis assistance from Soviet trade unions to the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan was held in Kabul. 'Abdul Satar Pordeli, chairman of this nationwide public organization of Afghanistan, speaking about the importance of cooperation between Soviet and Afghan trade unions, noted among other things the following:

[Begin Pordeli recording in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation] Our cooperation is currently of a varied nature. It concerns, for example, training national cadres and organizing leisure for workers and children. For the first time in our country's history, 9,000 Afghan children have been spending their leisure time in the best pioneer camps and recreation centers in the Soviet Union. We are extremely grateful to the Soviet Union for the fact that this year it is granting to another 4,000 Afghan children the opportunity to spend their leisure time in the Soviet Union. It should be pointed out that all children's recreation centers in Afghanistan have been built and equipped with the assistance of Soviet

trade unions. The assistance rendered to our organization by the Soviet trade unions will help to broaden and strengthen Soviet-Afghan relations and the development of the trade union movement in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Iraq Continues Missile Strikes on Tehran
LD041423 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad March 4 TASS—Iraq has dealt its 20th missile blow at Tehran, a military spokesman said here.

An Al-Husayn missile was launched at 13 hours 40 minutes and hit its target.

During the "war of the cities" a total of 25 missiles have been fired at Tehran and another three have been launched against the city of Qom.

Yazkuliyeve Speaks at Tripoli Airport
PM031329 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 88
Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet Delegation's Arrival"]

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Mar—A Soviet delegation headed by B. Yazkuliyeve, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Tripoli Monday. It will take part in the celebration of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the people's power in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

At the Libyan capital's international airport the head of the Soviet delegation made the following statement:

"On stepping onto the soil of the friendly Libyan Jamahiriyah we want to express thanks to the secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress for inviting the Soviet delegation to take part in the celebration of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the people's power in Libya. I take this opportunity to convey to the Libyan people warmest congratulations from the Soviet people on this date.

"People in the Soviet Union well know Libya's major achievements in various fields since the 1 September 1969 revolution which aroused great activity among the people's masses. The Libyan people became the masters and makers of their own destiny. But their successes would be even greater were it not for the constant intrigues of imperialism, Zionism, and the reaction against this Arab country. And even under these conditions, the conditions of the unceasing threats of armed aggression, the Libyan people have not turned from their chosen path, defending their right to autonomous development. The USSR and all socialist community countries are on Libya's side. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the consolidation of friendly relations between our two countries. The USSR and Libya are brought together by their common goals—the struggle

for a future for mankind without wars and nuclear weapons. We are confident that the Soviet delegation's visit will promote the deepening and consolidation of Soviet-Libyan relations."

The Soviet delegation was met by Bashir Huwayj, secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress for Trade Unions, Associations, and Professional Ties, and 'Umr-an Hammudah, deputy secretary of the Libyan Supreme People's Committee People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. P.S. Akopov, USSR ambassador to Libya, was among the welcoming party.

Libyan-Tunisian Talks, Maghreb Unity Viewed
PM041529 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 88
Morning Edition p 5

[Own Correspondent V. Neznamov "Notes": "Unification Is the Imperative of the Time"]

[Text] Algiers—The first 10 days of February have been marked by a series of top-level active contacts in the Maghreb. M. al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, paid an official visit to Tunis which highly stabilized the process of the further normalization of relations between two of the region's states, which in the recent past went through a prolonged period of confrontation.

The leader of the Libyan Revolution and President Ben Ali of Tunisia agreed to give new impetus to the whole range of bilateral relations and advocated the development and implementation of joint economic projects. Evidence of a return to the principles of good neighborliness was provided by the decisions adopted during the meeting to abolish the visa system for the two countries' citizens when crossing each other's border.

The results of the Tunisian-Libyan talks provided the background to M. al-Qadhdhafi's meeting in Annaba, Algeria, with President Bendjedid of Algeria, who is actively involved as mediator in the normalization of relations between his neighbors.

Observers here view these contacts, which concluded with a meeting between C. Bendjedid, M. al-Qadhdhafi, and Ben Ali in the Tunisian settlement of Sakiet Sidi Youssef, as a stage on the path toward creating a united Arab Maghreb.

The idea of unity was conceived in North Africa during the national liberation struggle by the region's peoples. It was thought then that after independence, the Maghreb countries would immediately set about a political rapprochement and would actively cooperate in resolving economic problems, which in the long term would lead to their unification.

For many years, however, the idea of creating a united Arab Maghreb remained no more than an attractive slogan, and the virus of conflict seriously undermined

even that slogan itself. It was not until the early eighties that the first serious attempt was made here to put those words into practice. Initiatives by Algeria and Tunisia to normalize state relations led to their signing a treaty of fraternity and accord on 19 March 1983. At the end of that year Mauritania acceded to it. The document enshrined the principles of noninterference in each other's internal affairs and respect for each state's socioeconomic sovereignty.

The 1983 treaty is a real working agreement. It formed the basis for the solution of earlier problems such as border disputes. The scale of economic cooperation has expanded considerably: Plans for the joint development of border regions are being implemented, joint projects are being carried out, mixed enterprises are being set up, and trade is increasing. Two years ago Libya began active cooperation with Algeria.

The advantages of regional cooperation are becoming increasingly obvious. Under the influence of the first difficult but generally successful steps in the countries party to the 1983 treaty, particularly Algeria, the idea that the creation of large regional associations of developing states is the urgent imperative of the time was widely discussed.

In this connection the majority of observers agree that the recent Algerian-Tunisian summit should provide the conditions to move to a higher level of cooperation between them, as well as with Mauritania, in the framework of a Maghreb economic community. It is believed that this community will embody the economic aspect of the idea of a united Arab Maghreb, whereas the political aspect will perhaps be reflected in the future creation of a confederation of Maghreb states. Like the 1983 treaty on fraternity and accord, the future association will be open to other North African countries.

Polyakov Discusses Talks With Mideast Leaders
LD031929 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1605 GMT 3 Mar 88

[From "The World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov; conversation with Vladimir P. Polyakov, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium]

[Text] We have invited Vladimir Porfiryevich Polyakov, member of the Collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry and chief of the Near East and North African Countries Administration, to take part in our broadcast. Recently he visited, as a special representative of the Soviet leadership, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia and conveyed to the leaders of those countries a message from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev setting out the position of the USSR on settling the conflict in Afghanistan, resolving the Middle East crisis, and putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Vladimir Porfiryevich, in the Arab capitals which you visited, what assessment is being given to the Soviet initiative on settling the Afghan problem?

[Polyakov] This message was conveyed in particular to President Al-Asad of Syria, to Crown Prince Hasan of the Kingdom of Jordan, and also to Egyptian President Mubarak. All the leaders of these Arab states gave a very positive assessment of the 8 February statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on Afghanistan and welcomed the decision of the USSR to withdraw the Soviet troop contingents from Afghanistan in a specified time period.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] In the Arab capitals it is considered that our initiative on Afghanistan is a sort of key and prototype for the solution of other regional conflicts.

[Polyakov] It is interesting that this idea was expressed in my conversation with the crown prince of Jordan, who stated that a rapid settlement of the Afghan problem would create a favorable atmosphere for the resolution of other regional problems, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war. This idea was also expressed by President Mubarak.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Thank you. Vladimir Porfiryevich, obviously questions of a Middle East settlement were very important points in your conversations with Arab leaders.

[Polyakov] I would like to emphasize in particular that the leaders of these countries fully support the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East in order to achieve an all-embracing and just settlement. They came out in favor of the participation in this international conference of all interested sides, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Such a statement is very important at the present time in connection with recent attempts by the U.S. Administration to find some sort of interim, partial solution of the Middle East settlement and, in particular, the Palestinian problem. It is possible to understand in Amman, Damascus, and Cairo that the leaders of these countries reject partial, interim solutions and have come out for attaining a Middle Eastern settlement through collective means.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Vladimir Porfiryevich, I would like to speak in particular about your trip to Saudi Arabia. If I am not mistaken, this was, in essence, the first visit by an official Soviet representative to the Saudi kingdom in the past 50 years.

[Polyakov] I must say that the instruction for me to visit Saudi Arabia and convey to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's verbal message on the question of Afghanistan, a Middle East settlement, and the Iran-Iraq conflict was unexpected. Indeed, this trip was the first in the past 50 years by a representative of the USSR on an official mission. Contacts between

Saudi Arabia and the USSR have been developing of late. Not long ago, in January, Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, was in Moscow, where he conveyed to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev a verbal message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. He had a very detailed conversation with Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko. Detailed conversations also took place with Foreign Minister Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze. During these conversations opinions were exchanged on all questions of interest to both the USSR and Saudi Arabia. It was considered that these conversations would promote the further development of political dialogue.

I would like to lay particular emphasis on the fact that in the meetings with the crown prince and in other meetings with the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, the Saudi officials showed vast interest not only in the USSR's foreign policy—they get detailed information on this through contacts by Saudi representatives in other countries—but also, and this was particularly interesting to them, restructuring in the USSR. Now the word *perestroika* is not translated into Arabic; they just call it *perestroika*.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] The Arabs just use the word *perestroika*?

[Polyakov] Yes, that is right. The crown prince was very curious about how we are implementing this restructuring, what successes and what problems we have had. It was really very interesting for me to acquaint the Saudi leaders with the processes that are taking place in our country. I must say that the leadership of Saudi Arabia welcomes the decision of the USSR to withdraw its troop contingents from Afghanistan. They believe this will also promote the creation of a favorable situation in the region. They stated that they regard with understanding the actions being undertaken by the leadership of Afghanistan with regard to national reconciliation. In brief, the conversation was useful. There was a detailed discussion on the Iran-Iraq war during which the Saudi leadership stated that they consider Resolution 598 to be a good political basis for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war. Saudi Arabia also came out resolutely in favor of convening an international conference for achieving an all-embracing and just Middle East settlement.

It is interesting that during my conversation with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince 'Abdallah, he noted that Soviet Russia was the first country to support the unification processes that took place in Saudi Arabia and come out for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. We have known the USSR for a long time. We welcome the USSR, especially its foreign policy, and we are prepared to maintain the most active political dialogue with that country. We are ready for Saudi Arabia, just like the other Arab states, to make the contribution it should to the rapid ending of the Iran-Iraq war and the

achievement of a just and all-embracing settlement in the Middle East. We hope that here Saudi Arabia will play the positive role that it should.

Gusev, Syrian Envoy Mark Syrian Revolution Day
PM031554 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Anniversary of National Day"]

[Text] For one-fourth of a century friendly Syria has been following the path of socioeconomic transformations and progress and consistently pursuing a policy of friendship and cooperation. This was stated in Moscow on 2 March at a ceremonial meeting of the capital's public to mark the 25th anniversary of the 8 March revolution in Syria.

The speakers noted that in the past years, the country has laid the foundations for the development of industry and agriculture and thereby significantly strengthened the basis of economic independence. These years were filled not only with labor, but also with the Syrian people's struggle against the intrigues of domestic and foreign reaction and against the continuing aggressive sorties by the Israeli expansionists, supported by imperialist circles. The speakers stressed that the common vital interests of the Soviet Union and Syria in the struggle for peace and social progress provides a firm basis for the all-around development of friendly relations between our two countries.

Y. Juma, Syrian charge d'affaires in the USSR, gave a high assessment of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union, which advocates the creation of a comprehensive system of peace and international security and the unblocking of regional conflicts. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its all-around assistance to his country in all spheres and stressed that the further strengthening and deepening of friendly relations between Syria and the USSR on the basis of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation meets the long-term interests of both countries' peoples and promotes the strengthening of the cause of peace and stability in the region and worldwide.

Taking part in the meeting were V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

Sub-Saharan Africa

South Africa Escalates Fighting in South Angola
LD041015 Moscow TASS in English 0826 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Unable to get anywhere near the heart of Angola, the South Africa aggressor army has been escalating hostilities in the south of that country, the Soviet national daily PRAVDA said in a report from a combat area there.

"Fighting has continued here, in the vicinities of the town of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola, for more than six months. Angolan Army positions have been shelled almost daily and occasionally bombed by South African fighter-bombers Mirages, Buccaneers and Impalas," the dispatch said.

The aggression has demonstrated "South Africa's inflexible imperial approach to the most complex problems of that part of the continent and its belief in the possibility to solve them with an iron fist and to topple and implant regimes as it sees fit", PRAVDA continued.

Pretoria's plans, however, had run smack into "hitch", the paper said, explaining: "This tiny town in the Angolan savanna has risen like an impregnable fortress in the way of an army boasting to be the strongest in the continent. The aggressor's losses run into hundreds of men killed and wounded and dozens of planes shot down."

The defense of Cuito Cuanavale, according to PRAVDA, is the largest battle between Angola and South African forces since 1975 when Pretoria hurled a big mechanized unit against Luanda for the first time in a bid to install UNITA in power.

It was then that the government formed by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] asked Cuba to send in troops as a way of help. The aggressor was thrown out.

"Such raids against Luanda today are inconceivable: The power of the national army has grown and the central areas are well protected by Angola and Cuban Army garrisons and air defences. This is why a different tactic has been chosen, that of gradually broadening bridgeheads in the south," PRAVDA said.

"Soviet reporters were told that the situation over the past fifty days has become extremely tense. All indications are that the command of the South African intrusion force, which is based in Mavinga, is preparing another major offensive.

"It was pointed out that units in the area are commanded not only by South African officers, but also by Portuguese ones, from the former secret police. One of them is Brigadier-General Ferreira and another is Lieutenant-Colonel Magallanes. Both are acting as mercenaries," PRAVDA said.

It quoted provincial Commissioner Colonel Manuel Francisco Tuta, a member of the Central Committee of the MPLA Workers Party, as saying:

"There are four South African Army battalions operating against us. They have now pulled some 20 and 30 kilometers back from Cuito Cuanavale and are re-grouping.

"The Angolan people and their armed forces are issuing the aggressor a befitting rebuff. The only thing the enemy will be able to get is further losses. It will not gain its desired ends.

"The apartheid regime should finally realize that it will not be able to establish a system suiting it in Angola. FAPLA (the Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola), will continue to thwart the enemy's plans, be it a Cuito Cuanavale or anywhere else."

Economic Accord With Zimbabwe Ratified
PM291435 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Agreement Ratified"]

[Text] A.M. Glukhov, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and T.R. Mesiah, deputy minister of finance, economic planning, and development of the republic of Zimbabwe, exchanged in Harare the instruments of ratification of the agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe on economic and technical cooperation, which was signed in Moscow 3 December 1985.

Briefs

Abidjan News Agreement

Abidjan, 3 Mar (TASS)—TASS and AGENCE IVOIRIENNE DE PRESSE (AIP) today in Abidjan signed a cooperation agreement in the sphere of information. The agreement was signed by B.I. Minakov, USSR ambassador to the Republic of the Ivory Coast, and Kobri Vlega [name as received], head of the Office of the Minister of Information, Culture, Youth, and Sports of the Ivory Coast. [Text] *[Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1534 GMT 3 Mar 88 LD]*

East Europe

SFRY Spokesman on Gorbachev Visit Expectations
LD031627 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade March 3 TASS—"We expect a detailed exchange of views, this being quite understandable considering the important processes and changes in the world that will be analysed", it was stated by Aleksandar Stanic, spokesman of Yugoslavia's Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

He spoke here today in connection with the official friendly visit to Yugoslavia by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in the middle of this month. He added that attention naturally would be given to a discussion of questions of further developing fruitful bilateral cooperation.

Visit Preview

*AU031005 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
2 Mar 88 p 1*

[T. Milinovic report: "Three Topics for Discussion"]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar—After the five meetings with Yugoslav leaders he has had since March 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev will pay his first visit to the SFRY in mid-March.

The first meeting between the Soviet leader and members of the Yugoslav leadership was held in March 1985 after Gorbachev's election as CPSU Central Committee general secretary, while the last meeting took place last November during a visit by a top Yugoslav delegation at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

On his arrival in Belgrade and during his stay in Belgrade, the prominent guest will hold talks on relations between the two countries, the world situation, and trends in the international workers and Communist movement—this was stated today at a regular press briefing by Gennadiy Gerasimov, USSR Ministry for Foreign Affairs Information Administration chief.

The Information Administration chief did not go into details about the general secretary's visit to our country, nor was he specific about the duration of the visit.

All today's Soviet newspapers carry front-page reports on Gorbachev's visit to Yugoslavia. Brief reports state that, at the invitation of the SFRY Presidency and the LCY Central Committee Presidium, the general secretary will pay an official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia in mid-March.

The news on the visit was first reported on Soviet television last night.

Chnoupek Letter to UN on Pact-NATO 'Trust Zone'
*LD031617 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Prague March 3 TASS—The CTK agency has issued today the text of the letter from Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in connection with Czechoslovakia's fresh proposal on gradually creating a zone of trust and cooperation, goodneighbourly relations along the contact line between the Warsaw treaty member states and the NATO countries, which was put forward by General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee Milos Jakes.

The letter says, among other things, that Czechoslovakia consistently favours a constructive dialogue on ways and methods of strengthening peaceful guarantees in all fields of international relations on the global and regional scale. The impulses given to the dialogue on

disarmament should be used for making progress in all fields of cooperation. Therefore, the USSR proposes that a zone of trust and cooperation, of goodneighbourly relations be gradually created along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty member states and the NATO member countries. Czechoslovakia advocates a comprehensive approach concerning equally the military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian fields.

In conclusion the letter expresses conviction that this proposal of Czechoslovakia is in full conformity with the aims and principles of the United Nations Organization contained in its charter.

Jakes' Victorious February Anniversary Speech
*PM031335 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88
Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "February Jubilee"]

[Text] Prague, 24 Feb—A CPCZ Central Committee ceremonial session, the CSSR National Front Central Committee, and the Federal Assembly Presidium and the CSSR Government was held here today to mark the 40th anniversary of the Czechoslovak working people's February victory over bourgeois reaction. Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, delivered a report.

Forty years separate us from the 1948 February revolution and from the glorious victory of the working class and the Czechoslovak people over the bourgeoisie, he stressed. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the broad working peoples' masses prevented by their resolute revolutionary actions the attempt by reactionary forces to restore a capitalist setup and unequivocally advocated the socialist path of development. Victorious February completed the transition of the people's democratic revolution into a socialist revolution.

Of tremendous significance was the fact that our people relied on their most loyal ally—the USSR—during the decisive days of the February Revolution. This prevented imperialist forces from interfering overtly in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs.

The CPCZ general secretary expressed gratitude to all the veterans of the February Revolution and noted the tremendous contribution made by that true son of the Czechoslovak people, Klement Gottwald, to the successes on the revolutionary path of socialist development.

Czechoslovakia today has a reliable technical base and a developed industry and agriculture. The results which have been achieved are closely associated with the CSSR's active participation in CEMA activity and in the development of economic and scientific and technical cooperation with socialist countries. The vital problems

of ensuring the Czechoslovak people's freedom, independence, and security have been resolved thanks to friendship, alliance, and cooperation with the USSR and other Warsaw Pact socialist states.

The sixties, when serious shortcomings began to gradually accumulate, above all in the economy, were a complex period of development in our country. The shortcomings were the result of subjectivism and voluntarism. The document "The Lessons of Crisis Development in the CPCZ and Society After the 13th CPCZ Congress" analyzed in detail the causes of the crisis and the experience of overcoming its consequences, which was gained at great cost. It gave a truthful viewpoint on these events. There is no reason to change it today. We deem it necessary to stress this position because certain representatives of the so-called "Prague Spring" are endeavoring to present the events in Czechoslovakia of 1968 as the forerunner of restructuring and are demanding they be reassessed. History has decided precisely and irrevocably that a profound abyss lies between restructuring in the USSR and the CSSR and the intentions of that time. Our aim is to develop the revolutionary mandate of Great October and February 1948 and make full use of all socialism's advantages and potential. The activity of rightist forces in 1968 was, on the contrary, designed to destroy the socialist system and prompted by a desire to take revenge for the defeat in February 1948 and wrench the country out of the Warsaw Pact.

Tremendous efforts had to be made to overcome the crisis and move our society onto the path of further socialist development. We rightly assess the 14th CPCZ Congress in 1971 as a victory over right-wing opportunist and antisocialist forces. The 17th CPCZ Congress summed up the results of development since the early seventies. They illustrate that we coped with the consequences of the social crisis and renewed socialist principles of leadership of society and of exercising of the party's leading role. The CPCZ policy has gained it the trust and support of the working people and the entire National Front.

But even in this period we did not always cope with the tasks as we planned and as we ought to have done. Complacency emerged in many areas, the resolution of problems was postponed, and party and state discipline and control were slackened. Proceeding on the basis of the need to further develop Czechoslovak society, we came to the conclusion that a fundamental restructuring of all spheres of public life was overdue. M. Jakes stressed. This conclusion is embodied in the strategic line of accelerating the CSSR's socioeconomic development, which was worked out by the 17th CPCZ Congress. The party Central Committee concretized and developed this line at the CPCZ Central Committee March and above all December (1987) Plenums. This is a program for large-scale revolutionary transformations.

Above all, the Czechoslovak people need peace to secure the projected targets. Therefore we ardently approve the historic Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and regard it as a

concrete result of the new political thinking in the nuclear era and as a practical step toward disarmament. Even before ratification of this document Soviet missiles will be withdrawn from Czechoslovak territory by agreement with the CSSR. Thus the CSSR is prepared to make its contribution to implementing the accords secured in Washington.

M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the recent CPSU Central Committee Plenum contains a truthful and principled look at contemporary world development, its complexities and contradictions, and ways to resolve mankind's present serious problems. We agree with this assessment and support its main idea—that of opposing the policy of force with the concept of the "balance of interests" and mutual equal security for all peoples.

We attach primary significance to a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive armaments while observing the ABM Treaty for a lengthy period, the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, and a reduction in conventional armaments, including dual-purpose delivery systems in Europe.

M. Jakes highly assessed and fully supported the accord between the Soviet and Afghan leadership on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. We hope, the speaker pointed out, that the other side will also take a step in return.

Reliable peace and security cannot be ensured by military measures alone. We propose creating a zone of confidence, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. We think these states could set an example through the broad implementation of the all-European process in their mutual relations and could determine and practically implement new ways of cooperation.

We favor a comprehensive approach applied equally to the military, political, economic, ecological, and humanitarian spheres. In the military sphere it could be a question of the consistent creation of a "detente" [razryazhennyy] zone where the level of military confrontation could be reduced, the most dangerous types of offensive armaments removed, and reciprocal confidence-building measures adopted. Such an approach is in complete accord with the proposed projects for the creation of zones free from nuclear and chemical weapons and with the intentions to promote various aspects of disarmament and boost trust between groups of European states on an all-European and global scale.

We propose holding a meeting between the representatives of the interested countries at a certain stage in the elaboration of this initiative to discuss potential for consolidating trust and developing cooperation in all spheres.

M. Jakes also proposed taking advantage of the approaching 400th anniversary of the birth of the great Czech teacher and educator John Amos Comenius to hold an international conference in the CSSR on the topic of young people's education in a spirit of peace. We believe this initiative will also meet with a response and support and will serve the cause of peace and mutual understanding between peoples.

CSSR Leaders Appreciate Soviets' Message
PM031552 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 1

[Message from CSSR's Jakes, Husak, and Strougal to Soviet leadership bodies]

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee;

to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium;

to the USSR Council of Ministers.

Dear Comrades!

We express cordial gratitude for the ardent fraternal congratulations and sincere wishes on the glorious jubilee of the CPCZ and all the Czechoslovak people—the 40th anniversary of Victorious February.

The fulfillment of the revolutionary behest of those glorious days of February 1948 in current conditions means, for us, the still more resolute implementation of the 17th CPCZ Congress decisions. In elaborating them the Communist Party proceeded on the basis of the requirements of the further development of our socialist society and the inspiring influence of the CPSU's Leninist course. Approving the decisions of the 17th congress and subsequent CPCZ Central Committee plenums, the party outlined a strategic course for accelerating the CSSR's socioeconomic development on the basis of a fundamental restructuring of all spheres of public life and its democratization. We are profoundly convinced that this is the only path leading to the further flourishing of socialism in our country and the attainment of the goals set by the Czechoslovak working people in February 1948.

The unity of the CPCZ and the CPSU and the indissoluble friendship of our two countries' peoples form the firm basis for the chosen path. The identical nature of the main directions of the revolutionary restructuring in our countries is not only an important factor in the development of the whole range of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations, but also gives us the certainty that our joint goals—the strengthening and all-around development of socialism—will be achieved.

In this connection, dear comrades, we wholeheartedly wish you and all the Communists and working people of the fraternal Soviet Union great successes in the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society.

Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary

Gustav Husak, CSSR president

Lubomir Strougal, CSSR premier

Gostev, CSSR's Zak Sign Currency Agreement
LD030208 Prague CTK in English 1318 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 2 (CTK correspondent)—A Czechoslovak-Soviet inter-governmental agreement on the use of national currencies for settling accounts in the sphere of direct contacts was signed here today by Finance Ministers Jaromir Zak of Czechoslovakia and Boris Gostev of the Soviet Union. The agreement, the first of its kind signed within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, makes it possible for Czechoslovak and Soviet enterprises and joint ventures to settle accounts in the sphere of direct production and scientific-technological relations in national currencies. Organizations of both countries will have free access to the currency of partner organizations which means introduction of internal convertibility for the specific sphere. Jaromir Zak and Boris Gostev voiced the conviction that the agreement would contribute to extension of direct contacts between the two countries' enterprises and organizations and thus also to the further development of Czechoslovak-Soviet economic and scientific-technological cooperation.

Bulgarian, Soviet Leaders Send Greetings

CPSU, Presidium Message
PM031548 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 1

[Message from CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers to Bulgaria's Zhivkov, Atanasov]

[Text] To Comrade Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman;

To Comrade Georgi Atanasov, Bulgarian Council of Ministers chairman.

Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers and all the Soviet people send to you, the BCP Central Committee, the Bulgarian State Council and Council of Ministers, and the fraternal Bulgarian people cordial congratulations on the 110th anniversary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke.

During these days we recall the unforgettable events of the past, when the unbending will and courage of Bulgarian patriots, in conjunction with the heroism of the servicemen of Russia, brought the joy of liberation to the ancient land of Bulgaria.

The winning of independence was an important milestone on the Bulgarian people's difficult path to the true national, social, and spiritual revival that was heralded by the victory of the socialist revolution on 9 September 1944. In the decades that have passed since then, decades marked by major achievements by Bulgaria in boosting its economy, science, and culture and in social development, the traditional Soviet-Bulgarian friendship has been filled with new quality and content.

We are confident that at the present crucial stage, when the Soviet Union and Bulgaria are tackling tasks that are similar in their nature and goals in renewing socialism and are, in close collaboration with the other socialist countries, waging a persistent struggle for a nuclear-free world and for mankind's survival, the relations of trust and mutual understanding and of mutually advantageous, equal cooperation that have grown up between our parties and peoples will be further strengthened and take on new scope.

On this glorious anniversary for the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples, we wish you, dear comrades, and all the working people of fraternal Bulgaria great successes, prosperity, happiness, and peace.

The CPSU Central Committee

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Zhivkov, Atanasov Message

PM031550 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 1

[Message from Bulgaria's Zhivkov and Atanasov to USSR's Gorbachev, Gromyko, and Ryzhkov]

[Text] To Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary;

to Comrade A.A. Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman;

to Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, USSR Council of Ministers chairman.

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the grateful Bulgarian people we send to you and, through you, to the fraternal Soviet people our most cordial congratulations on the 110th anniversary of Bulgaria's liberation from Ottoman slavery.

The Russo-Turkish war of liberation of 1877-1878 put an end to 5 centuries of the foreign yoke. It crowned with success the Bulgarian people's national liberation movement, and regenerated the Bulgarian state.

Decades later, our country's working people, after prolonged, harsh class battles under BCP leadership, won social liberation. The socialist revolution, which was victorious thanks to the decisive assistance of the Red Army, opened up the way for the people's constructive labor and creative energy and for building a socialist society on Bulgarian soil.

In the harsh battles 110 years ago not only was Bulgaria's freedom born, but the friendship and fraternity of our two peoples were sealed forever. Bulgarian-Soviet friendship, which goes back for centuries and has withstood the tests of time, is today our common, most precious asset. The revolutionary restructuring taking place in our countries under the BCP and CPSU leadership creates powerful new stimuli to its further flourishing.

On the day of the noteworthy anniversary we once again express our determination to continue steadily to strengthen fraternal friendship and to develop all-around cooperation and rapprochement with the Soviet Union for the sake of our peoples, in the name of the cause of peace and socialism.

Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman

Georgi Atanasov, Bulgarian Council of Ministers chairman

Hungary's Medgyessy on Official Visit

Received by Slyunkov

PM031017 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Topical Questions Discussed"]

[Text] N.N. Slyunkov, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, received P. Medgyessy, MSZMP Central Committee member and Hungarian Council of Ministers deputy chairman, who is in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

During the friendly conversation they discussed topical questions of the implementation of economic reform in both countries and Soviet-Hungarian economic cooperation.

Meets With Gosplan Chief

PM031019 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In the Common Interests"]

[Text] Yu.D. Maslyukov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member, USSR Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, and USSR Gosplan chairman, received Peter Medgyessy, Hungarian Council of Ministers deputy chairman, who is in Moscow, on 26 February.

During the friendly conversation they discussed questions of the further development of economic cooperation between the USSR and Hungary.

Hungarian-Soviet Goods Exchange Protocol Signed

LD272204 Budapest MTI in English 2041 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, February 27 (MTI)—Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers and minister of trade, and Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, signed the 1988 Soviet-Hungarian goods turnover protocol, Saturday in Moscow.

The protocol, which urges to extend economic cooperation, envisages the mutual delivery of goods worth 9,800 roubles this year. At current prices this is higher than the value of last year's goods exchange.

Following the ceremonious signing of the protocol Konstantin Katushev said plans include the continuation of cooperation in the joint construction of the Yamburg gas, and the Tengiz petroleum and natural gas sites. Participation of the Hungarian side in this project creates an opportunity to its necessities. The Soviet minister termed as important that the first joint ventures have been founded between the economic organizations of the two countries, and that several of these have already begun actual producing activity.

In his return speech Jozsef Marjai appreciated the thorough preparatory work in the elaboration of the now signed protocol. He stressed: The goods turnover agreement will serve well the implementation of the government's work programme in the sharp Hungarian economic situation.

Zaykov Meets Berlin Party Official Albrecht

LD021500 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1100 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade Zaykov had a conversation today with a delegation from the Berlin SED District Organization led by Albrecht, secretary of the party district organization. The delegation is in Moscow at the invitation of the

CPSU Gorkom. They held a businesslike exchange of opinions on prospects for further developing cooperation between the party organizations of the two capitals.

Ceausescu Speaks to People's Councils

LD041052 Moscow TASS in English 1019 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Bucharest March 4 TASS—The signing of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is an event of truly historic importance and is the first step on the way of removing huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons existing in the world, which can destroy mankind several times, said Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Romanian Republic, in the speech at a republican conference of representatives of people's councils. It is necessary to step up efforts in achieving new agreements on cutting nuclear strategic arsenals, stopping nuclear weapons tests, refusing space militarisation and destroying completely nuclear stockpiles, he pointed out.

Latin America & Caribbean

Strike by Pro-U.S. Opposition in Panama Fails

LD041128 Moscow TASS in English 1055 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Havana March 4 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov:

An anti-government strike called by the right-wing opposition in Panama with a view to destabilizing the situation in the country and installing a regime obedient to the United States there has been a complete fiasco.

The population, including most private entrepreneurs, reject the provocative, anti-patriotic slogans of the opposition coalition calling itself the National Civil Crusade and support authorities' independent, anti-U.S. policies.

According to reports reaching here, many private businesspeople, who initially joined the opposition, have quitted the strike and gone over to the side of the government and the patriotically-minded military.

The government is completely in control over the situation in the country.

Practically all trade unions have expressed backing for the government of new President Manuel Solis Palma and condemned the U.S.-inspired right-wing opposition's intrigues.

The largest trade union association, the National Trade Union Center of Pamananian Working People which groups more than 30 organizations of factory and office workers, has launched a campaign to neutralize the reactionaries' provocative activities.

Trade unions issued a joint statement stressing that the strike called by the National Civil Crusade is directed at provoking conditions for an armed incursion by U.S. forces into Panama.

The statement noted that the activities of the right-wing opposition is being funded by the United States. Washington is seeking to lead to power in Panama a puppet government that would help the United States to remain effectively in control over the Panama Canal after the year 2000 contrary to the Panamanian-U.S. agreements on the strategic waterway.

Panama's Supreme Court has accepted the validity of the Parliament's decision to take presidential powers away from Eric Arturo Delvalle who, acting on U.S. prompting and in violation of the Constitution, attempted to remove patriotically-minded Brigadier-General Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of National Defense Forces, from his post last week.

The Supreme Court turned down an appeal by opposition lawyers who had filed a protest against Delvalle's removal as president.

The National Bank of Panama announced yesterday that one of the U.S. banks, complying with White House orders, had refused to give back the ten million dollars on Panama's account there. The United States last Wednesday froze Panama's funds, totalling 50 million dollars, in its banks contrary to norms of international law.

The Western mass media, first of all the American ones, are deliberately distorting developments in Panama. Panamanian Interior and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon said in an interview with Panamanian newspapers that if Western correspondents continue their attempts at disinformation, Panamanian authorities will respond with most resolute measures, including expulsions, to cut such activities short.

Contras, Nicaraguan Government To Hold Talks
LD041003 Moscow TASS in English 0751 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Managua March 4 TASS—Nicaraguan contra leaders have accepted a proposal by the Sandinist government to hold another round of ceasefire talks with a governmental delegation in the border settlement of Sapoa.

The contras named Adolfo Calero, one of the leaders of the emigre counter-revolutionary organisation Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, to head their delegation at the talks, the contra radio station Liberacion has reported.

The governmental delegation will be led by Defence Minister General Humberto Ortega.

The Nicaraguan Government asked Costa Rica's president to ensure that contra delegation an unimpeded passage to the Nicaraguan border where the talks will be held.

On Thursday, the National Reconciliation Commission held a meeting in Managua to consider matters connected with a restoration of political dialogue between the government and opposition parties, with democratisation, general amnesty and ceasefire in accordance with agreements signed last August in Guatemala.

Nicaraguan Interior Minister on U.S. 'Offensive'
LD031322 Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Managua March 3 TASS—The U.S. Administration and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have made use of the democratisation of Nicaraguan society and political openness under the Guatemala agreements, signed by the presidents of Central American countries, for launching a psychological offensive against the Republic. This was stated by Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan minister of the interior.

Speaking at a congress of Nicaraguan journalists, he pointed out that the undeclared war affected all fields—economics, politics, and ideology.

By making use of numerous economic and social problems of Nicaragua, CIA specialists try to turn them into a powerful instrument of internal political struggle against the people's power, to put the blame for all the difficulties on the Sandinist leadership, to polarise political forces, and to bring about tension in the country.

Reactionaries and armed counterrevolutionaries insist on a revision of the country's Constitution, and demand an amnesty for Somozist criminals, and the abrogation of the law on patriotic military service, which in the conditions of the ongoing U.S. aggression would mean an end to the revolution. Such maneuvers hamper the implementation of the Guatemala agreements and basically contradict them.

The U.S. psychological warfare is a global strategy of imperialism's fight against the Sandinist Revolution, the fight in which the actions of right-wing reactionaries play into the hands of U.S. aggressive policy, Tomas Borge emphasized.

Nicaragua Defense Ministry Issues Communique
LD031455 Moscow TASS in English 1301 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Managua March 3 TASS—The Nicaraguan Ministry of Defence strongly condemned preparation by U.S. military circles for a direct armed intervention against Nicaragua.

The ministry's communique, circulated here on Wednesday and prepared on the strength of reconnaissance data of the Sandinist People's Army, points out that the flights of military cargo planes from the United States to a CIA base in Honduras became much more frequent in recent days. A sharp increase in the number of U.S. servicemen from among units of special troops was also observed at the base.

Arms, ammunition and explosives are being urgently brought into the territory of Costa Rica from the Panama Canal Zone where the troops of the Southern Command of the USA are stationed.

At the same time U.S. transport planes make up to ten flights with cargoes and servicemen every day. Besides, more than a thousand ready-to-attack U.S. soldiers from among special engineer units are in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border. U.S. troop deployments which are being carried out in an atmosphere of utter secrecy are an evidence of the Pentagon's preparation for new provocations against Nicaragua and of a possible direct intervention, said the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry's communique.

Political & Social

Politburo Discusses Law on State Enterprise LD032040 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo: At the session held on 3 March the Politburo discussed the activity of enterprises following the coming into effect of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise. It was noted that the first steps of economic reform have already made the work of many labor collectives more active. The initiative and enterprise of working people are growing, and economically sound methods of management are being used on an increasingly wider scale. The transfer to complete financial autonomy has contributed to the successful fulfillment of the plan for the first 2 months of the current year.

It was emphasized at the session that the directives of the CPSU Central Committee June 1987 Plenum for increasing the planning role of enterprises and subordinating their activity to consumers' demands have not been implemented in many cases. This could be attributed not only to specific features of the transition period leading to an integral managerial system but also to direct omissions in organizing this matter at the center and on the local level. The USSR Gosplan did not provide the proper guidance for the system of state orders for 1988, which resulted in limiting the independence of enterprises in choosing the range of production and partners for concluding contracts.

Shortcomings in material and technical supplies are a serious obstacle in developing the initiative of enterprises. The USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply and its organs at local levels are weak in resolving urgent questions. The USSR Ministry of Finance is slow in restructuring the work of financial organs at local levels. Banks allow shortcomings in credit payment and cash services to enterprises. Many ministries have failed to restructure the style and methods of their work and have not rendered due practical assistance to enterprises in their work under the new conditions, or in introducing financial autonomy within production.

The USSR Gosplan, ministries and departments, and local management bodies have been directed to observe strict compliance with the USSR Law on the State Enterprise and provide the necessary conditions for the development of initiative and independence by enterprises, the extensive introduction of financial autonomy relations, and the combining of the interests of the state and the working collectives.

The Politburo charged party bodies at the local level with eliminating administrative and command management methods and transferring more boldly to political methods of managing the economy, relying above all on the working collectives and public organizations.

The session discussed measures connected with organizing and implementing inspection activity linked to the Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. A number of specific issues came under examination regarding the preparation of the Soviet side to fulfill its obligations under the treaty once this comes into force.

The Politburo approved the results of the official friendly visit of Comrade Gromyko to the People's Republic of Hungary. The common approach of the CPSU and the MSZMP, the USSR and the Hungarian People's Republic, to current matters of Soviet-Hungarian relations and international politics was noted with satisfaction. The meetings and conversations in Budapest, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and comradely mutual understanding, demonstrate a mutual striving for the dynamic development of relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and Hungary. It was emphasized that the harmony between the process of restructuring in the USSR and the aims of Socialist Hungary opens up new possibilities for the comprehensive development of Soviet-Hungarian links.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo adopted decisions on several other issues of the domestic and foreign policies of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

Party Examines Procedure for Trips Abroad PM031246 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the question of further improving the procedure for trips abroad by Soviet citizens on official business.

In the conditions of the renewal and democratization of all spheres of Soviet society's life in accordance with the course elaborated by the 27th party congress, the stepping up of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the introduction of new political thinking into international life with the aim of normalizing the world situation and creating an atmosphere of greater trust and friendship among peoples, the development of modern forms of multifaceted cooperation with foreign countries, and the expansion of cultural, scientific, social, sporting, and other exchanges and local links, great significance is attached to further improving the organization of trips abroad.

Certain practical measures were defined in this context.

In order to ensure greater promptitude in resolving questions of travel abroad on official business, the rights of USSR ministries and departments, union republic councils of ministers, their foreign economic organizations (associations), and leaders of enterprises and institutions in sending people on trips abroad are considerably extended. Particular attention is drawn to creating the conditions for sending specialists abroad in good time in connection with foreign economic, scientific, and technical cooperation on the basis of existing agreements, protocols, and contracts, including trips to resolve matters connected with introducing new forms of such cooperation (direct links, joint enterprises, and so forth), providing technical assistance to foreign countries, servicing machinery that has been supplied, receiving purchased equipment and training in its use, examining advertising matters, and conducting commercial operations.

The time taken to examine questions of trips abroad is to be reduced centrally and locally and the documentation submitted in connection with trips is to be simplified. Certain questions of travel abroad which were formerly resolved by central organizations are to be handed over to local organs and leaders of production associations and enterprises.

Ministries and departments, enterprises, scientific institutions, and other organizations are to seek a decisive increase in the effectiveness of trips abroad and improve collaboration in this sphere with Soviet institutions and missions abroad. The attention of embassies, consulates, trade and economic missions, and other Soviet institutions abroad is drawn to the need to ensure that those sent abroad successfully fulfill their tasks and to create the appropriate conditions for this.

Central Committee Resolution on Employment
PM021557 Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SSSR (OTDEL PERVYY) in Russian No 5 1988 pp 66-80

["CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU Resolution on Ensuring Efficient Employment of the Population, Improving the Job Placement System, and Strengthening Social Guarantees for Working People"—SOBRANIYE headline]

[Text] In the Soviet Union the right to work is a very important gain for the people and an indisputable advantage of socialism. Every citizen is guaranteed work in conformity with his vocational training, education, calling, and individual abilities. Due consideration is also given to the national economy's needs.

The party and the state display constant concern for the efficient utilization of manpower resources and for enhancing the role and prestige of conscientious and creative labor by workers, kolkhoz members, and the

intelligentsia. Our society's major political and socioeconomic achievements and the establishment of a new way of life for people are indissolubly connected with this gain.

In contrast with capitalism and the permanent unemployment inherent in it, socialism really guarantees full employment of the population and offers unlimited opportunities for the application of each worker's labor and the revelation of his abilities. Soviet laws reliably defend the citizens' rights to labor and education, safeguarding and reinforcing their social guarantees.

A tremendous production potential has been created in the country. There is large-scale reconstruction and retooling of enterprises and construction of projects, especially in regions undergoing new economic development. The sectors which determine scientific and technical progress are developing at a fast pace. Large-scale tasks are being simultaneously solved in the nonproduction sphere. Science, culture, enlightenment, and health care must be raised to a qualitatively new level, and this demands the accelerated development of their material and technical base. These progressive structural changes in the national economy give rise to an objective need to fundamentally improve the use of manpower resources, redistribute them among spheres and sectors of the economy, regions, enterprises, and organizations, and steadily improve cadres' skills.

At the same time, the manpower resources and production apparatus which exist in the country are still not being used efficiently. Many enterprises operate on just one shift. The national economy suffers considerable losses through erratic production, serious shortcomings in the organization of labor, and instances of workers being diverted from their main activity for various reasons. This leads to enterprises maintaining surplus manpower, holds back the growth of labor productivity, and produces an artificial shortage of cadres. Long breaks in workers' and employees' labor activity when they have to change jobs also negatively affect the country's economy.

Party, soviet, economic, and trade union organs do not give sufficient attention to the rational use of manpower resources. Labor and social problems organs play an inadequate role in this work. Job placing services have still not been set up in many cities and rayons. The work on vocational guidance for the population and availability of information on vacant jobs and positions is not organized in a satisfactory fashion. Working people frequently experience difficulties in choosing jobs.

The acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the transition to an intensive economy, the radical reform of national economic management, and the improvement of the organizational structures of ministries, departments, associations, and enterprises increase the need to ensure efficient employment of the population and to improve the system of job placement for workers thus

released. All working people should be confident that they are really guaranteed the right to labor. At the same time every worker, specialist, and employee must really work, give his all, value his job, constantly assert himself within the collective with conscientious, highly productive labor, improve his qualifications and professional skills, and value the social guarantees granted by the state. Good work must be the norm for every Soviet working person.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU resolve:

1. Under the new conditions of economic management, the most important political, social, and economic task of rigorously implementing the citizens' right to labor as guaranteed by the USSR Constitution must be perceived as an inalienable part of active social policy.

Under the guidance of the 27th party congress instructions and the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January and June (1987) Plenums on the restructuring of economic management, the efficient employment of the population in all sectors of the national economy and regions of the country is to be ensured, the job placing system is to be constantly improved, and social guarantees are to be extended for workers released from enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

2. Party, soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organs should implement a range of organizational, social, economic, and legal measures to radically improve the use of manpower resources and create an integrated, statewide system for job placing, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population.

Questions connected with the release, retraining, and job placing of workers should be resolved strictly in line with labor legislation and the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), on a democratic basis, in an atmosphere of broad glasnost, and with the direct and active participation of the labor collectives. Attentiveness must be shown toward released workers, especially women and young people, and the interests of different categories of working people must be comprehensively considered.

I. On Ensuring Efficient Employment of the Able-Bodied Population [subhead]

3. Leaders of associations, enterprises, organizations, and institutions and party and trade union organizations should ensure the necessary conditions for highly productive labor by all workers, seek to strengthen order in production, step up exactingness toward violators of labor discipline, idlers, and drifters, and establish an atmosphere of intolerance by the collective toward an unconscientious attitude to labor and social duty. The role of the certification of leaders and specialists in assessing the quality of their labor is to be stepped up.

In the course of implementing organizational and technical measures, taking into account the certification and rationalization of jobs and the ensuing release of workers, it should be ensured that jobs are found for them first and foremost within the enterprise, with a view to increasing the production of high quality output necessary to the national economy and ensuring the efficient use of the available production potential based on the introduction of a multishift system for equipment operation, first and foremost unique and costly equipment.

Particular attention should be devoted to the full and prompt staffing of newly commissioned facilities with cadres. Released workers should be transferred to subunits carrying out work on the basis of the enterprise's own resources in production modernization and retooling and the construction of housing and sociocultural facilities.

One of the most important avenues of this work should be the active use of the labor of released workers to increase the production of consumer goods, expand paid services for workers at the enterprise in question and for the population, and develop subsidiary farms.

Wider opportunities should be provided for women with children and people with a limited capacity for work, where they so wish, to work an incomplete working day (or week), and also to work a flexible schedule or at home.

The training and retraining of released workers in the needed professions and specialties should be carried out on the basis of enterprises' own training courses or under contracts with vocational and technical schools and higher and secondary specialized educational establishments, as well as with associations, enterprises, and organizations.

Taking into account the increased demands of cadres' vocational training in the conditions of acceleration of scientific and technical progress and production intensification, leaders of associations, enterprises, and organizations should be authorized to employ specialists with higher education, with their consent, as workers in some of the most complex, original, and responsible types of jobs demanding great skill and special training.

4. It should be deemed necessary to step up the role of local soviets, organs for labor and social questions, and trade union councils in ensuring efficient employment of the population. The prompt job placing of released workers, their vocational guidance and retraining, and the balancing of jobs and workforce in a given city or rayon depend to a considerable extent on these bodies' skilled and efficient work with the labor collectives in enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

For this purpose local soviet ispolkoms:

must make maximum use of available manpower for the comprehensive development of production sphere sectors and for enhancing the efficiency of fixed assets and capital investments;

must strengthen and expand the sphere of services for the population and carry out the systematic, purposeful redistribution of released workers to enterprises and organizations in this sphere ensuring its accelerated development as well as the fullest possible satisfaction of the population's needs for housing, paid services, and consumer goods. An enhancement of the contribution made by nonproduction sectors to the national economy's development must be consistently pursued.

In exceptional cases, with a view to better organized job placing for released workers, local soviet ispolkoms may, with the consent of the labor collectives, defer schedules for releasing workers from enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

5. It must be regarded as an important means of utilizing the labor of workers released from enterprises, organizations, and institutions to form them into cooperatives, as well as to promote individual labor activity.

Ministries, departments, and economic leaders must give special attention to establishing cooperatives attached to enterprises, organizations, and institutions for the production of consumer goods and the provision of various services to the population. Their development must be assisted by all means, and premises, equipment, transport, and raw and other materials must be made available to cooperatives according to established procedures.

Local soviet ispolkoms, proceeding from the specific needs for goods and services and the availability of non-employed population in the region, should step up their work on setting up cooperatives in public catering, consumer services, production of consumer goods and articles from local materials, and procurement and processing of secondary raw materials.

6. Union republic councils of ministers, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, and ministries and departments should make provisions in their draft plans for the economic and social development of republics and individual regions in 1989-1990 and subsequent years to locate smaller specialized enterprises, branches, and shops involved primarily in the processing of agricultural products and the production of articles from local raw materials in small towns, worker settlements, and rural localities. The aim must be to ensure that agricultural enterprises, as a rule, have their own capacities for the processing and storage of products.

For making rational use of manpower resources in the countryside, especially during the off-season period, and ensuring additional manufacture of output, it should be

deemed necessary to develop craft workshops and subsidiary industrial production units on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, primarily for the production of consumer goods and output to meet their own needs, but also under contract for other enterprises and organizations and to order for the population.

There must be broader application of new progressive forms of contracts on individual, family, and cooperative principles with leasing of land parcels, production premises and tools, machinery, and equipment.

7. Ministries and departments, with the participation of trade union organs and bearing in mind the prospects for the sector's development, the modernization and retooling of production, the commissioning of new capacities, the introduction of progressive machinery and technology, and the development of the production infrastructure, should determine the potential for releasing workers taking into account their professional makeup, and should make provision in good time and on a planned basis for their subsequent job placement.

They must give the enterprises practical assistance in ensuring the efficient utilization of these workers in the same sector, and must create the conditions for directing them toward construction sites and enterprises located in regions undergoing new economic development and for reinforcing laggard production units with skilled workers and specialists.

One of the main avenues of activity by ministries and departments must be to organize the training, retraining, and improvement of workers' and specialists' skills on a sector-wide scale.

8. USSR ministries and departments, union republic councils of ministers, local organs for labor and social questions, and Komsomol organs must give every assistance to the released workers in moving, if they so wish, to jobs in other regions of the country, first and foremost the regions of the north, Siberia, the Far East, and the RSFSR non-Chernozem Zone, in the form of intrasector transfers, organized recruitment, the social draft, and agricultural resettlement, and to grant these workers the appropriate guarantees and compensations.

Leaders of associations, enterprises, and organizations, local organs, ministries, and departments must create the necessary conditions for retaining incoming workers and ensuring rational utilization of everyone's labor, show concern for creating suitable housing conditions and other social and consumer conditions for them, and help place members of their families in jobs.

9. In view of the particular significance of systematic, organized work to restructure the structures of union, republican, and other administrative organs located in Moscow City, USSR ministries and departments, the RSFSR Council of Ministers, Moscow Gorispolkom, Moscow Oblispolkom, and party and trade union organs

are to elaborate and implement a range of additional measures to place workers released from administrative organs in jobs, bearing in mind that they ought to:

Ensure in the first place a supply of skilled cadres for newly created state production associations, as well as for existing science and production associations, production associations, and enterprises in the relevant sectors situated in Moscow City and Moscow Oblast;

Send released workers, with their consent, to reinforce leading production sections at enterprises and organizations in other regions of the country;

Make broader use of sending released workers to enterprises in the services sphere and help set up cooperatives;

Organize, whenever necessary, the retraining and skill improvement of workers released from administrative organs with due consideration for the new nature of their labor activity.

The Moscow Gorispolkom and Oblispolkom, jointly with ministries and departments, ought to examine the question of possibly limiting the recruitment of VUZ graduates in 1988-1990 by enterprises, organizations, and institutions situated in Moscow City and Oblast.

10. To further improve the selection, placing, and renewal of cadres and ensure the correct combination of experienced and young workers, it must be deemed necessary to improve the utilization of the labor of workers and employees who have reached pensionable age at enterprises, organizations, institutions, ministries, departments, and other administrative organs.

It must be deemed expedient to grant the administration, in conjunction with the trade union committee, the right to maintain labor relations with workers and employees who have reached pensionable age if they work conscientiously and with full commitment, show good results in their labor, and enjoy well earned prestige in the collective. Labor relations with other workers who have reached pensionable age and have the necessary length of service for the allocation of a full pension are to be continued by agreement between the sides through the conclusion (renewal) of a fixed-term labor contract (of up to 2 years), or to be terminated on the initiative of the administration with the consent of the trade union committee.

The current regulations for the dismissal of persons reaching pensionable age do not apply to workers elected to office by labor collectives or to persons who come under different legislative provisions for release from work by reason of age.

II. On the Provision of Benefits and Compensations to Released Workers [subhead]

11. Concern must be shown for finding jobs for released workers so as to minimize the possible interruptions in work, temporary loss of earnings, and other complications in connection with changes in labor activity. For this purpose, working people's social guarantees envisaged by legislation must be comprehensively used.

The administration of enterprises, organizations, institutions, and trade union committees, in conjunction with councils of labor collectives, should examine every candidacy for release individually, on the basis of wide glasnost. Workers are to be informed about the opportunities for job placing, retraining, and training in new professions and specialities, and also about the relevant benefits and compensations.

A worker is to be informed of possible release no later than 2 months beforehand.

Simultaneously with notification of redundancy connected with a cut in the numbers of workers or establishment, the administration must offer a worker another job at the same enterprise, organization, or institution. If a worker is offered a job at the same enterprise, organization, or institution, he is to be given labor remuneration conditions, benefits, and compensation for the new job in line with existing legislation.

12. In the event of a lack of work in the relevant profession or speciality, and also in the event that the worker or employee refuses a transfer to another job at the same enterprise, organization, or institution, a worker may, at his own discretion, appeal for assistance to the job placement body, or else find a job independently. At the same time the administration must notify the job placement body of the forthcoming release of a worker, indicating his profession, speciality, qualifications, and level of labor remuneration.

The job placement body should offer the worker or employee a job in the same or another locality according to his profession, speciality, and qualifications, or in the absence of such work select another job taking into account individual wishes and social requirements. If necessary a worker may be sent, with his consent, to study a new profession (speciality), and subsequently offered a job.

13. Workers released from enterprises, organizations, and institutions, where the labor contract is broken in connection with implementing measures to cut the number of workers or establishment:

a) are paid a severance allowance of an average month's wage;

b) retain their average wage for the period taken to find a job, but for not more than 2 months from the day of dismissal taking into account the payment of a month's severance pay;

c) retain their average wage for the period taken to find a job, exceptionally, for the 3d month from the day of dismissal, by decision of the job placement body, on the condition that the worker has appealed to that body in good time (within 2 weeks of dismissal) and a job has not been found.

The payment of a month's severance pay and the retained average wage takes place on the basis of the former work place.

The workers in question are deemed to have an uninterrupted term of service, provided that the interruption in work after dismissal does not exceed 3 months.

In the course of reorganizing and eliminating enterprises, organizations, and institutions, the average wage, taking into account the payment of a month's severance pay, and the continuous term of service are maintained for released workers for the period taken to find a job, but not more than 3 months.

For workers released from enterprises, organizations, and institutions (including administrative organs) in the above cases, the continuous term of service is maintained for the payment of percentage supplements to wages and single-payment length of service awards, as well as other benefits and payments related to length of service, if they apply at the new place of work. For such workers, where there is a continuous term of service, annual leave is granted irrespective of the length of service at the new place of work.

14. Where retraining or improving qualifications takes place on a full time basis, released workers and employees retain their average wage, calculated on the basis of the wage at their former place of work, or the difference is made good so as to arrive at the average wage during retraining on a full time basis for the entire training period laid down.

Leaders of enterprises and organizations are granted the right, by agreement with the trade union committee, to grant to workers beginning work in a new or additional profession additional payment to bring them up to the average wage prevailing at their former place of work for a period of 3 months. The additional payment is canceled if the worker violates labor and production discipline.

Expenditure on training and additional payments to bring the worker up to the average wage is borne by the association, enterprise, or organization which has concluded a labor contract with the worker.

15. Where released workers are transferred to another enterprise, organization, or institution, questions of improving their housing conditions are resolved by the administration and the trade union committee in conjunction with the council of the labor collective at the new place of work. Account is taken of the time the

worker has been on the waiting list for improved housing conditions at the former place of work, as well as his total length of service and his attitude to work.

Such workers may continue to make use of children's preschool institutions, Pioneer camps, and medical services at the former place of work if they still live in the same city or rayon.

In individual cases, on the initiative of the administration and the trade union committee and with the agreement of the council of the labor collective, released workers may remain on the list for improved housing conditions at their former place of work.

Where released workers move to a new job in a different locality because of planned redistribution of manpower resources, it is incumbent upon enterprises, organizations, and institutions to supply them and their families with housing according to the labor contract conditions. Subsequently, with the consent of the labor collective council, their housing conditions may be improved, taking into account the time they have been on the waiting list for improved housing conditions in their former place of work.

16. Measures to improve the structure of the apparatus of central and republican organs should be implemented subject to standard regulations for the provision of the following benefits and compensations:

a) workers from USSR and union republic ministries and departments and their subordinate administrative organs being transferred within the apparatus to the office of leaders or deputy leaders of structural subdivisions of these organs at a lower salary will be paid the difference in salaries over 1 year. These workers, as well as leaders and deputy leaders of other subdivisions of these organs, remain entitled to medical services.

The same provisions apply to the maintenance of earnings for workers being sent from the central apparatus of ministries, departments, and their subordinate administrative organs to the position of leaders, specialists, or employees at enterprises, organizations, and institutions, if the salary at their new job is lower than the one they received formerly.

Leaders of ministries, departments, enterprises, organizations, and institutions should be authorized, on the expiry of the 1-year period, to either reduce or cancel the salary differential payment according to results of certifying the workers in question at their new jobs.

Introducing standard regulations for providing benefits should result in abolishing former conditions governing retention of entitlement to wages, material and consumer service facilities, and medical services by released workers, except for persons who were granted these benefits on an earlier transfer to another job by virtue of individual government decisions;

b) when workers released from the apparatus of USSR and union republic ministries and departments are transferred to regions in the Extreme North or equivalent localities, or to regions in Siberia or the Far East, they can reserve housing in their permanent place of residence for a period of up to 5 years with a subsequent extension covering their entire length of service in the new job. In the event of housing being reserved, these workers are allocated official housing;

c) when workers released from the apparatus of USSR and union republic ministries and departments are transferred to enterprises, associations, organizations, or institutions, their length of service within this apparatus as leaders or specialists should be added to their length of service in the appropriate specialized field, and the length of service by persons with a scientific degree should be added to the length of their scientific teaching service.

17. The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, jointly with the AUCCTU, should elaborate and approve a directive on the procedure for the release and job placement of workers and employees and the provision of benefits and compensations to them.

III. On Establishing a Statewide Job Placement System for the Population [subhead]

18. In accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum a statewide system for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population should be set up, covering all rayons, cities, oblasts, krays, and republics.

To this end economically accountable centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population should be set up in 1988 in union and autonomous republics, krays, oblasts, and major cities, and economically accountable job placement bureaus in other rayons and cities. The detailed list of such centers and bureaus should be determined by the union republic councils of ministers in coordination with the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Questions.

The activity of all components of the statewide system for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population should be concentrated on solving the following basic tasks:

to organize the study of the employment and mobility of the able-bodied population and to establish data banks on the need for and sources of manpower;

to ensure that the population is broadly informed of the need for workers with the relevant vocations, specialties, and skills, and of jobs which could be done by pensioners, invalids, women with children, and young people still at school;

to carry out work on the job placement of the non-employed population and of released workers for whom places of work have been selected prior to the breach of labor contracts;

to supply the cadres needed by associations, enterprises, organizations, and institutions and to implement the organized redistribution of manpower primarily from regions with surplus manpower to regions with a shortage of manpower;

to carry out vocational guidance work and provide advice to all groups of the population, to make suggestions on the choice of change of vocation or speciality taking into account individual abilities and a person's interests, and whenever necessary to organize the improvement of skills or retraining of workers.

19. It should be established that centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population (job placement bureaus) operate under the leadership of the local soviets and their labor organs on the principles of economic accountability, according to contracts, and in cooperation with enterprises and organizations. The scale of funds necessary for operating and developing these centers (bureaus) depends directly on the volume of services offered to enterprises and organizations, and also on the prompt and full satisfaction of their cadre requirements.

Local soviet ispolkoms should be granted the right to allocate to centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population (job placement bureaus) some of the funds formed out of deductions from payment for manpower resources contributed by enterprises and organizations to the local budgets to finance work associated with ensuring the full and efficient employment of the population and the rational utilization of the region's productive forces.

The procedure for payments by enterprises and organizations is to be laid down by union republic councils of ministers in line with the regulations on centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population (job placement bureaus). The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, jointly with the AUCCTU and in consultation with the USSR Ministry of Finance, should approve regulations for financing the activity of the aforementioned economically accountable centers (bureaus).

20. Associations, enterprises, organizations, and institutions must provide centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population (job placement bureaus) with information on free jobs and vacant posts and on all workers released, taken on, and dismissed.

21. The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems and the USSR State Committee for Statistics, jointly with the USSR State Committee for Computer

Technology and Information Science, should ensure the development and introduction of automated systems for managing manpower resources as a component of national economic management and social development.

Provisions should be made to equip the centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance for the population (job placement bureaus) with the necessary computer and calculator equipment to comprehensively resolve the tasks of predicting, planning, and regulating the population's employment in the regions of the country and for organizing the systematic, prompt redistribution of manpower resources in the national economy.

22. The USSR Academy of Sciences and the union republic academies of sciences, the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, the AUCCTU, and ministries and departments should provide scientific backing for elaborating socioeconomic problems linked with forecasting the release and job placement of workers and the most rational avenues for their redistribution and utilization, and also with implementing measures aimed at ensuring the efficient employment of the population.

23. The USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the editorial boards of central, sectorial, and local newspapers, journals and publishing houses must provide broader coverage of questions concerning the employment of the population, the release and job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance of workers, and the advanced experience of work in this sphere by local soviets, enterprises, and organizations.

With a view to providing citizens with up-to-the-minute information, the centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational guidance (job placement bureaus) in the republics, krais, oblasts, and cities must regularly publish appropriate bulletins.

24. The Komsomol Central Committee, the republican, kray, oblast, city, and rayon Komsomol committees, and primary Komsomol organizations must educate young men and women in a spirit of a conscientious and creative attitude toward labor and in the best traditions of the Komsomol and front-ranking labor collectives. Unflagging attention must be paid to the vocational guidance, vocational training, and skill enhancement of young people, and to creating the necessary conditions for highly productive labor.

One of the Komsomol's main tasks must be to send socially drafted young people to the most important national economic projects. Persistent work must be done to retain young workers and specialists in production, especially on kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

25. Union republic Communist Party central committees, party kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, union and autonomous republic councils

of ministers, local soviet ispolkoms, USSR ministries and departments, and trade union and Komsomol organs must show constant concern for ensuring the full and efficient employment of the population. They must exercise strict monitoring of compliance with labor legislation and the granting of legal and social guarantees to released workers. They must resolutely cut short any attempts to infringe citizens' rights and legitimate interests.

26. The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems jointly with the USSR Ministry of Justice and the AUCCTU must:

Provide the necessary clarifications on questions concerning the implementation of this resolution;

Prepare with the participation of relevant ministries and departments, and submit to the USSR Council of Ministers, proposals on introducing amendments to current legislation resulting from this resolution.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU express confidence that labor collectives and party, soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organs will do everything necessary to ensure that the planned measures are implemented in an organized way with full guarantees of citizens' constitutional rights, and that they help increase the working people's labor and social activeness in the interest of the further growth of the economy and the people's well-being.

M. Gorbachev, secretary [as published] of the CPSU Central Committee

N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

S. Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU

Moscow, 22 December 1987, No 1457

Armenia, Azerbaijan Reported Calm

Baku Workers Voice Concern

PM031421 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian
24 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by E. Abaskuliyeva and L. Polonskiy: "Fraternity Is the Most Sacred Thing for Us. What the Workers Think About the Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh"]

[Text] The BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY editorial office is receiving letters and telegrams and readers are phoning in to express their view of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. People are approving the oblast party organization aktiv's resolution and confirming the need to adopt urgent measures to overcome the negative phenomena occurring in Nagorno-Karabakh. It is noted that the demand by irresponsible people and those who follow their lead for a review of the existing national-state setup contradicts the interests of working

people in the Transcaucasian republics and is incompatible with the USSR Constitution. The fraternity and friendship proclaimed by the Great October Socialist Revolution are a reality with us, and the best sons of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples and all the peoples of the Soviet land have invested their efforts, knowledge, health, and even lives in them.

Our paper's correspondents talked about all this with the workers of the Baku Machine Building Plant named for Lieutenant Shmidt during their lunch break.

...We were in the assembly section of the blowout preventer shop. The first half of the working day had been hard: They had to make up the lag that had built up since the start of the month. In January the collective successfully managed the target, but in February the components situation was difficult. But the workers were confident they would soon be surging ahead.

During the lunch break they talked about the events in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Maarif Azizov's team is multinational; for many years Azerbaijanis, Armenians, and Russians have been working side by side in it.

"To be honest, I was shaken by what happened. I could never imagine a handful of people infected with nationalism trying to cause trouble," worker Arsen Ambartsumyan said. "I have been at the plant half a century. I fought from 1942 through 1945. I battled my way through the Caucasus and the Ukraine and ended up in Austria. Fighting in the war with Russians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, and Belorussians... I knew very well the nature of friendship and assistance in the most taxing circumstances. It makes me angry to know that someone wants to encroach on this fraternity—the thing that is most sacred for all of us, internationalism."

"I was born in Baku, the dearest city in the world to me," Abram Abramov, a team comrade, picked up where he left off. "I have been at the 'Shmidt' since the year after the war and my teachers and educators were glorious masters—Azerbaijanis, Armenians, and Russians."

A. Abramov thought for a while, and then said:

"I want to see good changes—economic, social, and cultural—taking place from year to year in Nagorno-Karabakh. Not long ago my friend Arkadiy and I went to a wedding in Stepanakert. I could see that people were more comfortably off. I saw the same changes in Mardakert and Askeran."

"Ambartsumyan and Abramov said what I was thinking," team leader Maarif Azizov said. "I would like the people who are disrupting tranquillity and order to meet with our multinational collective. What a resolute, firm rebuff they would receive! We are living and working as a united family, we have become accustomed to sharing

a crust with one another, and we have common joys and troubles. No adventurers are going to drive a wedge in our friendship, our community spirit!"

The plant workers were perplexed to learn that in the 71st year of Soviet power there could be people calling into question the correctness of the choice made decades ago with immense enthusiasm by the working people of Nagorno-Karabakh—a region closely linked economically, politically, and culturally with Azerbaijan and its cities and rural areas! They said it in various ways, but the common idea was that no claims—unjustified, as a rule—and no ambitions, including national ones, should obscure our main and common goal of a socialist society, the interests of socialism, the interests of restructuring, which we are conducting at the moment. Both in the blowout preventer shop and in the No 11 assembly shop, visited by the correspondents, they were surrounded by workers saying that we are still not always able to nip in the bud sorties by purveyors of disinformation and certain politically immature elements.

Gurgen Nersesovich Sudzhayev, gear-cutter team leader in the No 11 shop, said:

"When I heard on the radio about what is going on in Nagorno-Karabakh I was surprised, to say the least: What is it all about? Who stands to gain by raising the question of changing the borders of the Azerbaijan SSR? In my opinion, in a multinational country everyone must think about what unites us. Everything else is damaging to us. I have a close attachment to the Shmidt plant and to its people of most diverse nationalities. We all get our due according to our labor: For example, I was recently made a member of the labor collective council and given an honorary testimonial on the 70th anniversary of October. My son, Roman, is an officer who has been in Afghanistan for some years now, carrying out his international duty, and he writes about the friendship that helps him endure the grimmest circumstances. About a month ago a fellow countryman of ours, an Azerbaijani called Islam, a warrant officer serving with my boy Roman, arrived from Afghanistan. I welcomed him as my own son."

"I come from Zhdanovskiy Rayon," shift foreman Makhmud Zeynalov joined the conversation. "This is my 14th year at the plant and I have gotten used to living among friends and close comrades—Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Russians, Ukrainians... I'll tell you, I was at a loss to understand how it could be that there were irresponsible people trying to set the tone in Nagorno-Karabakh, a region that is very dear to me. My sister Dzhamilya and her family live in the village of Muganly in Martuninskiy Rayon. She has a good life. I can vouch for that, because I go to Martuni every year on vacation. Various amenities are being provided in the village and there are many new houses. Life is splendid also in the neighboring Armenian village."

These actions perpetrated by misguided people in Nagorno-Karabakh are damaging our common cause, they are willy-nilly adding grist to the mill of our ideological opponents and giving bourgeois propaganda something to chew on. But no one will manage to shake the unity of the Soviet peoples—this was the gist of the pronouncements by other workers at the Shmidt plant: Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Russians, Ukrainians, Lezghians...

Sergey Ivanovich Zhukov, the oldest lathe hand in the plant, whose opinion was sought by his comrades in the shop, was succinct:

"I was born in Ryazan Oblast. My mother and father brought me to Baku as a boy, and I am exceedingly fond of Azerbaijan. I have not been to Nagorno-Karabakh, but I know that this autonomous oblast is an inseparable part of Soviet Azerbaijan and of the whole Soviet land."

We chose these words to end the discussion at the Baku Machine Building Plant named for Lieutenant Shmidt.

Cultural Establishments Needed

NC031618 [Editorial Report] Baku Domestic Service in Armenian at 1100 GMT on 3 March 88 carries a feature on the development of cultural services and amenities for the Soviet people in the age of glasnost and perestroika. The feature focuses on the development of such services in Stepanakert.

Without once mentioning Nagorno-Karabakh by name or its place in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the feature enumerates and praises its achievements in the cultural field. However, it says, "there are serious problems in purposefully organizing the working people's leisure time. The solution to these problems needs attentive and sensitive treatment. [passage omitted] The city is growing and developing, the cultural level of its population is rising, and its aesthetic demands are growing. The circumstances of cultural and educational establishments, however, are still the same as they were in the fifties. In the last 38 years not a single building has been constructed in Stepanakert especially for cultural establishments. According to the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Ministry of Education, residential quarters are required to have their own clubs. In Stepanakert, however, there are only three in all. One is located in an eight square-meter room, another is generally [words indistinct], and a third has neither a hall nor (?auxiliary) rooms. Stories of newly-built buildings in the city are being allocated to trade and communal services and not a single one is being allocated to cultural and educational establishments. Our demands always go unanswered.

"Instead of improving the conditions of the city's central library, named after Mouratsan [Armenian writer born in Karabakh], it has been decided that its only reading room will be allocated to the city printing works to be

used as a workshop. In general, none of the [word indistinct] libraries is properly ventilated. They are all located in basement rooms which are humid and badly appointed. [words indistinct] the libraries are declining new books because they have no place to put them. Questions concerning repairs to libraries and (?printing works) are always unanswered for a long time."

'Disruption' at Nagorno Factory

LD031733 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The next report is from Stepanakert:

The Stepanakert electrical engineering works is in great debt to the consumer. Over recent weeks there has been a shortfall in output—lamps for various purposes—amounting to nearly R1 million. The lagging behind is serious and so people are impatient. It is not easy to get into a normal rhythm. After all, the factory's output is awaited by industrial enterprises, medical establishments, and of course, by ordinary consumers in various parts of the country. And then a disruption occurred. They fell 10 days behind schedule. A solution was found. It was decided to organize a third shift. It is planned to make up for part of the output on rest days. The workers have stated that the quarterly program will be met.

Azerbaijan Power Changes Announced

NC040925 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
0757 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] For the information of heads of organizations and enterprises:

The Azerbaijan Power [word indistinct] Board announces that operating regime number 3 repeat 3 will be in effect [uch nomreli ish rezhimi tayin edilir] from 0800 to 2300 hours today [0400-1900 GMT]. [This announcement is followed immediately by a verbatim announcement in Russian, with the same indistinct word.]

Moscow on Sumgait Disturbances

LD041623 Moscow World Service in English
1600 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The official Soviet news agency TASS reports that the situation in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait in the Caucasus is getting back to normal. The city was the scene of disturbances provoked by hooligans on the 28th of last month. A number of people, charged with criminal offences, have been arrested.

A government commission headed by the Azerbaijani premier, Gasan Seidov, is monitoring operations of all the city services and the observance of public order. Prompt measures are taken in response to appeals and requests by the citizenry. People that have suffered in the disturbances have been extended help.

Georgia's Patiashvili on National Relations
PM031427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 88
Second Edition p 2

[Article by D. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, under the rubric "CPSU Central Committee Plenum Participants Speak Out" and the general heading "Asserting the Humanism of Our Goals": "Roots and Shoots"]

The many questions raised both in M.S. Gorbachev's plenum speech and in the report delivered by Ye.K. Ligachev stung us to the quick, you might say. Take, for example, nationalities policy at the contemporary stage. This really is a most principled, vital question of our society.

Much has been done in our country to strengthen the friendship of the peoples. Yet there are people who, while speaking of friendship, in fact know their own country and the fraternal peoples' culture and traditions badly. If someone starts judging a nation over a kolkhoz market counter, that is our common fault and misfortune. True feelings are revealed in living contacts. Those who recently had the good fortune to participate in the Georgian Week on Siberian soil do not cease going into raptures over the beauties of that land and the hospitality and heartfelt generosity of the people who live there. We are now preparing to welcome our Siberian brothers among us. It is precisely in such mutual enrichment that the Soviet motherland's multinational culture must be comprehended and developed.

Much is determined by the sociopolitical atmosphere, and since April 1985 it has more than ever disposed people toward frankness, exactingness, and trust. The consolidation of society is taking place under the conditions of restructuring. Healthy forces triumph when the party really takes the initiative into its own hands. This is a very fertile soil for the flowering and strengthening of our lasting values and ideals. They rally the people and cement our multinational state, our excellent union.

Glasnost and democracy have opened people's eyes to a great deal, shown the actual distribution of forces in society, and revealed the inexhaustible potential and reserves of socialism. But glasnost and democratization must not lead to distortions in the shaping of the Soviet person's world outlook and political culture or of basic qualities such as lofty morality, responsibility, honesty, decency, loyalty to socialist ideals, internationalism, and patriotism.

We have traveled a complex, unexplored path full of difficulties and privations. And we were the first to do so! In his report at the ceremonial session in honor of the 70th anniversary of Great October M.S. Gorbachev made a clear and principled assessment of the events of our history. Today glasnost and democratization are making it possible to avoid major mistakes and errors.

But democracy definitely implies discipline and responsibility. In the recent past we lacked discipline and responsibility to no less a degree than democracy! It is doubly inexcusable for a talented author if the truth is distorted for the sake of sensationalism, for effect, and domestic squabbles are raised to the level of political generalizations. Unfortunately, individual articles sin badly in this respect—which hits hard at those who really stand for restructuring.

Shamelessly turning historical facts and destinies upside down at one's own whim, trying to slander certain heroes of the revolution and the war, and willy-nilly undermining our Army's moral and political spirit means cutting off both roots and shoots. You cannot bring up an internationalist and a patriot on such articles.

You cannot use a half-truth to struggle for the truth. You must know the truth, however bitter and tragic it may be. But it is also necessary to take from our past examples of lofty civic duty, the spirit of revolutionary creation, and everything that is so necessary for restructuring.

Special caution and tact are needed in the sphere of inter-nation relations. We will sacredly protect our most priceless gain—internationalism—from all encroachments. For this is such a natural property of the human soul. Is this not why in childhood no one chooses his friends on grounds of nationality? How important it is not to lose or change this natural gift!

Childhood is like a still unwritten page of history, like an open clean sheet. Our future and the ultimate fruits of restructuring depend on those who fill it up. We associate lofty moral and political goals, social prospects, and our best hopes with the young people whom we are raising today. It is the duty of everyone to try to ensure that the new generation of Soviet people, the generation of the age of restructuring, enters the 21st century with head held proudly high and with an unshakable desire to really strengthen socialism and to cherish and augment the friendship and fraternity of the Soviet peoples as a most precious asset.

In many respects this is connected with school, which fulfills society's very important social imperative. It must keep up with the dynamics and diversity of sociopolitical practice. In this sphere, as everywhere, the general principles of acceleration must operate more fully—democratization, the search for creative solutions, the rejection of dogmas and stereotypes.

The spirit of innovative pedagogics is near and dear to the party of innovators. It is here that the sources of new social thinking free from inertia and blind authoritarianism lie. An experimental scientific pedagogical association headed by the scientist Sh.A. Amonashvili has been set up in the republic. It generalizes and approves methods which have absorbed the most rational elements of the experience of pedagogue-innovators,

including ones from Moscow, Leningrad, and Donetsk, a meeting with whom was held recently with the participation of UCHITELSKAYA GAZETA.

The pedagogics of cooperation which lies at the basis of such methods means not only cooperation between the teacher and the pupil. It means cooperation between the school and society. The current 5-year plan has been declared a 5-year plan of nationwide concern for schools in the republic. A shift of public attention, including patronage by the public and by labor collectives, and the creation of parents' societies are a pressing requirement of the times.

Estonia's Ryuytel Makes TV Speech on Nationalism
PM031207 Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA
in Russian 23 Feb 88 p 1

["Speech by A. Ryuytel, Chairman of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on Estonian Television"—SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA headline]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Each one of us links with restructuring everything to which hitherto we were unwilling or unable to pay due attention.

There are many such problems and unsolved questions.

At times we all, from ordinary worker to highest-ranking leader, fail to immediately perceive the real causes of mistakes and shortcomings, many of which lie within ourselves—in our inability and incompetence, in selfish personal or group interests whose existence we do not always admit to ourselves.

Costly mistakes were made both in economic policy and in ensuring social justice, as well as in the nationalities question.

There were instances of the misinterpretation of facts and events in national history and of an incorrect attitude toward assessing the spiritual and material experience of peoples in our country.

This is the inheritance of the recent past, existing in our minds together with the achievements and victories.

In order to overcome the negative aspects of this inheritance, we need to thoroughly analyze it. This is why legitimate interest in history is steadily growing in our society.

This reflects one of the most essential characteristics of the policy of glasnost because people's civic feelings have been awakened, feelings which can be based only on knowledge of their past and their national roots.

In the desire to understand events in the historical past of the Estonian people and the whole Soviet people one can also perceive a wish to bring to light the deep-rooted causes of our present problems, because, here again, a creative path into the future can be based only on knowledge of these causes.

It is, however, a different matter if interest in history is used to aggravate urgent problems of social life, which can only be described as a struggle against the course of restructuring and an irresponsible attitude toward the future of the Estonian and all other peoples in the USSR.

Some foreign propaganda services and U.S. politicians have recently deliberately exacerbated so-called Baltic questions.

Taking advantage of the forthcoming 70th anniversary of the proclamation of independent states in the Baltic region, which was made possible thanks to the October Revolution's victory, they are holding forth about events at that time, casting doubts on the legitimacy and legality of the restoration of Soviet power in the Baltic region in 1940 and the reunification of Baltic states with the Soviet Union, and striving to nullify everything achieved in our republic during the postwar decades.

It must be admitted that events in 1917-1920, and even the entire period of bourgeois Estonia's existence, have been given biased and inadequate treatment in our propaganda and our school curriculums.

Our historians still have to produce an objective interpretation and evaluation of this period, but it is also obvious that the propaganda clamor around these historical events certainly does not stem from greater positive interest in our history.

We are, of course, talking about the Estonian people's present and future.

It is clear to any realistically minded person that there is and can be no return to the Estonian bourgeois republic because this would be contrary to prevailing historical reality and the Estonian people's economic and social interests.

This is perfectly well realized both by people abroad and by those individuals who spread such fabrications in our country.

It must be bluntly said that the main and sole goal of this entire campaign is to sow national discord between two large national groups—the 1 million Estonians and the 1/2 million mainly Russian-speaking people.

The only result of this campaign could be to create difficulties for the process of democratic transformations in our republic.

We must not delude ourselves that current developments in our country have no adversaries either here at home or abroad.

It is clear that many people abroad dislike the economic and political strengthening of the Land of the Soviets.

The adversaries inside the country are primarily those circles whose interests are directly threatened by the changes taking place.

I have in mind people who have dishonestly enriched themselves with unearned income, as well as those who, during the years of stagnation, acquired not love of labor but the habit of living off others and working in a slipshod manner, the habit of laziness.

The adversaries of restructuring also include the swollen and privileged bureaucratic apparatus, as well as those who lack a proper sense of patriotism and national pride and who are unwilling to actively further a positive solution of urgent problems through their deeds.

Only people like these could now oppose the will and interests of the majority of the people and make statements propagandizing national discord and calling for breaches of social order.

Here we have a paradoxical coincidence between the interests of bureaucrats, speculators, and obscurantists, because all of them dream of nothing but an exacerbation of the political situation and of national relations to a point where the positive development of events would be halted. This would inevitably lead to a return to the methods of the stagnation period.

Such is the political dialectic of the present moment in time.

All the difficulties and problems facing us now and demanding solution are common problems for the whole Soviet people, just like our victories and losses were common for us.

The family of Soviet peoples has neither culprit-peoples nor victim-peoples, it has neither peoples that have only helped others nor peoples that have only received help from others.

The fanning of national enmity on the basis of past mistakes is a profoundly wrong path which places our future in jeopardy.

In order to advance, we must jointly find wise solutions, we must give more consideration to the original features of each republic and its specific economic and cultural characteristics. This is the road consonant with the interests of all residents of our republic, on which we are now embarking.

At present, more than ever before, our society needs to ensure that the whole people, all labor collectives and public organizations, and every individual adopt a free and creative approach toward their activity. In other words, we need truly democratic grassroots initiative in all spheres of life.

This is precisely why today I would like to call on all residents of our republic and to express confidence that, for the sake of a better and brighter future, we will rebuff all attempts to interfere in our internal affairs, to fan national discord, to set some population groups in opposition to others, and to hinder the constructive and positive solution of problems in our life.

We will succeed in this only if we act jointly and fruitfully, making maximum use of the potential of our democracy and the socialist system of economic management.

Estonian Nationalists Linked to Foreign Centers
PM031443 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA
INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Feb 88 p 4

[Own correspondent V. Proskura article: "Who Is Urging on the 'Victims of Political Persecution' Who Are Trying To Rewrite the History of Soviet Estonia?"]

[Text] Tallinn—It was on 23 February 1918 that Red Army soldiers fought heavily armed enemy hordes near the small workers' town of Keyla, close to Tallinn. The forces were too unevenly matched. The worker-peasant power that was established in the Estonian capital simultaneously with October's victory in Petrograd fell. The bourgeoisie triumphed.

But the people tackled history in their own fashion. An Estonian Soviet Republic was formed in November 1918. It was called a Labor Commune, with the factory city of Narva as its provisional capital. But the first wave of intervention was followed by a second, and then by a third... The Western colonialists, together with counter-revolutionaries of all hues, once again handed the reins of power to the "gray barons."

The communards, fighting to their last bullet, withdrew to Soviet Russia where they wrote quite a few heroic pages in the history of the Civil War, fighting in the Urals, near Orel, and in the battle of Perekop. It is in their honor that the most beautiful square in the center of Tallinn is today named for the Estonian Red Riflemen.

This is the history of the Estonian people's struggle for their freedom and dignity. It also contains a truly memorable date—Soviet Estonia's reunification with the fraternal family of union republics in 1940.

These landmarks cannot be razed. This has already been realized by those who still deny the Estonians' right to choose their own historical path. They cannot be razed,

but they can be obscured... This is precisely what VOA and Radio Liberty are trying to do now. The class enemy is looking for breaks not just in the foggy airwaves.

For example, the republic has only just learned from the account of its native merchant seaman V. Kholm about the subversive actions of the so-called "Center for Assistance to Estonian Political Prisoners" in one of the Scandinavian countries. The provocateurs hoped to use Kholm to pass on instructions for intelligence gathering and other antistate activity, and also money and technical equipment meant for the organization of hostile actions in the Estonian SSR. This is by no means the first occasion that staffers of special services overseas have tried to recruit citizens of Soviet Estonia. As a rule, people themselves help to nip such attempts in the bud. V. Kholm also told the competent authorities what had happened and exposed the provocateurs.

Sometimes, unfortunately, the poisoned seeds of hostile designs manage to make their way among us and to sprout shoots—especially in the minds of a certain section of young people. Something like this happened in February this year in the university city of Tartu. This is what a recently published address "To Estonia's Citizens" signed by famous people from the republic has to say on the matter: "The incident... showed that extremist demonstrations... have nothing in common with the process of democratization which is spreading all over the country. Such demonstrations, regardless of the number and subjective intentions of their participants, threaten the positive process that is taking place at present..."

People in the republic believe that by no means the least important role in the fanning of unhealthy and false moods among students was played by a so-called action group advocating the erection of a monument to "victims of Stalinism." In the words of the well known Estonian journalist M. Kadastik, Lagle Parek became a "victim of political persecution."

She was born in 1941. It was then, in the first few days of the war, that a court passed the supreme penalty on her father, a former captain in the bourgeois republic's army who was involved with the counterrevolutionary underground. He was engaged in gathering intelligence information to be used in the event of a seaborne landing by the Hitlerites.

It is well-known that, at that critical time in Tartu, there were also people who suffered from repressions by mistake, simply on the grounds of suspicion. Lagle Parek lists her father, a fascist mercenary, among them and is now shouting more loudly than anyone else about "the innocent who were killed." There is no holding back the vociferous lady, who quietly works as a technician-curator of ancient monuments, she would like to win the laurels of a "fighter" come what may. Her "reflections" are already being broadcast by VOA.

Parek was sentenced for anti-Soviet agitation in the past, but later appealed for pardon to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and swore not to cooperate with foreign centers. Having been granted a conditional release, she returned home last year and, as we can see, is again up to the same old tricks. Tiyt Madisson, Parek's "comrade-in-arms" who has left the motherland and was, incidentally, also tried for anti-Soviet activity in the past, has not given up the course of anti-Sovietism, either. Now he is raving and ranting on the airwaves, prophesying disturbances and foreseeing "prospects of national revival."

The "action group" roll also includes other people with a criminal past. One of them, for example, was tried for rape.

These "action group" members were aptly described to me by Hero of Socialist Labor A. Pertel, a mining instructor from Kokhtla-Yarve: "Being an Estonian is a profession for these people. Let others, the 'brothers,' do the hard work..."

All instances of interference in the republic's internal life by imperialist special services and even by transatlantic senators were fittingly assessed at rallies in labor collectives, open party and Komsomol meetings, and discussions in the local press, a plenum of the republican Communist Party Central Committee, and a session of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Nationalist elements, the stooges of radio voices from overseas, are also being rebuked. As for those who are confused, they are reminded of historical facts, of the 12,000 inmates shot in a fascist concentration camp located here during the war. Of the fact that many proper monuments still have to be erected on the known and unknown graves of Soviet Estonia's patriots who were tortured in Gestapo cells or treacherously killed in ambush by the "forest brothers" and other rabble of that ilk.

Working people in the Estonian SSR demonstrate readiness to crushingly rebuff the class enemy's ideological subversions and unbending will to safeguard and augment the international traditions.

"This is our duty to ourselves and to all fraternal peoples in the country," Hero of Socialist Labor V. Liyv, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy and turner at the "Telleks" association, said.

...When this article was ready to go to press, I received a telephone call in my hotel room. "Switch on the television, the Estonian channel" a colleague of mine from Tallinn told me. "Comrades from our KGB are now speaking."

Indeed, the republic's television viewers were given full details of the secret espionage threads linking the reactionary emigre organization and its "local" agents with the West's intelligence centers. The "national fighters" had been caught red-handed.

Pamyat's Vasilev: Jews, Zionism 'Evil Force'
PM021346 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
26 Feb 88 p 2

[Interview with Pamyat leader Dmitriy Vasilev by Fiammetta Cucurnia in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—Pamyat (Memory) is the strongest of the approximately 30,000 unofficial organizations whose existence in the USSR is acknowledged by PRAVDA. It seems to be the only one now with the potential to become a genuine mass opposition party. Perhaps this is why it is the most feared and publicly attacked. Nevertheless it is constantly winning new members. Indeed, its undisputed leader, Vasilev, says that "whenever any Soviet newspaper publishes an article criticizing Pamyat we gain more members." It is often criticized by PRAVDA, which describes it as "a group of extremists that incite national hostilities." It is feared, criticized, and opposed by prominent newspapers representing Gorbachev's restructuring policy, from MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI and OGOSEK, which accuse it of petty anti-Semitism, and by ZNAMYA, which describes it as an organization that "actually discredits restructuring." They deny it, however, and describe themselves as "strong supporters of restructuring."

It was not easy to find them or, rather, to track them down. Pamyat does not seek out foreigners, does not seek publicity abroad. Their battleground is here at home, in the Great Russia where, Vasilev says, "we will fight until the last drop of blood." Before receiving us he sought guarantees that we were not "dirty liars in the pay of cosmopolitans and of the U.S. dollar." Eventually, however, he did admit us to his home, which is where most of the group's meetings take place.

[Cucurnia] Tell me, Mr Vasilev, how many members does Pamyat have?

[Vasilev] There are approximately 20,000 monitored members, that is, members that we are able to monitor. Each of them has his own circle, however. If the state were to register us normally, there would be millions of us.

[Cucurnia] How do you manage to maintain contacts between the organization and members throughout the country?

[Vasilev] That sounds like a KGB-type question. I will answer you by saying that we maintain only personal contacts, partly because an outright campaign of persecution is being organized against us. Pamyat members are being expelled from the Komsomol and party and

bear in mind that there are numerous party members in Pamyat's ranks. They prevent us from speaking on television and from holding public meetings with the press. It is because they fear us.

[Cucurnia] What is your platform?

[Vasilev] We want to tackle and resolve the problems of our nation, by which I mean the Russian nation, since Pamyat was born in Russia. In fact these problems are international problems since there are evil forces that would like to build their power on the ruins of the world's loftiest cultures. So whereas Lenin once said "proletarians of the world unite", now Pamyat says "patriots of the world unite." We have reached the conclusion that it is no coincidence that we have been witnessing for years the destruction of our historic monuments, our traditions, and the customs of our peoples—in this specific instance, of the Russian people. There is clearly some evil force wanting to rob the peoples of their memories and their material, historical, and cultural wealth in order to prevent their moral progress.

[Cucurnia] Pardon me, but mankind can certainly not be said to have made no progress in recent years.

[Vasilev] I am talking about moral development, not technological and scientific development, which is in fact a blind alley for mankind. It is technological and scientific progress that creates weapons. It is technological and scientific progress that brings closer the time of a sudden conflagration that will engulf us. Chernobyl has taught us this. This is why we are struggling for the protection of the environment, which is mankind's living space, against nuclear energy and against alcohol, which has inebriated the Russian people. This is clearly all part of a plan carefully devised by somebody....

[Cucurnia] Who?

[Vasilev] A terrible force active here and in your country, trying to destroy our culture—a force of whose existence we became aware during our work to protect Russia's cultural heritage: Zionism and freemasonry.

[Cucurnia] Mr Vasilev, there is already much confusion in this regard. Please explain: When you say "Zionists" do you mean the Jews?

[Vasilev] Yes, always these Jews, as though there were nobody else in the world. The Jews live everywhere, own the capital, live like parasites throughout the world, emigrate freely from country to country, and are always depicted as the most unfortunate nation. Nobody is concerned about the Russian people, who are now the worst off and most unfortunate of all peoples. It is enough to read the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" to realize who created this situation. However, not all Zionists are Jews and not all Jews are Zionists. This is

why we are not anti-Semitic. Tell me, who invented the gas chambers? The Jews. The freemasons, on the other hand, are the material executors of the Zionists' plans. It is a very serious matter....

[Cucurnia] Tell me, what exactly is your attitude toward the Jewish population in the USSR and Moscow?

[Vasilev] I will tell you just this: The ideologue of the destruction of our monuments and our culture was Yaroslavskiy, whose real name was Gubelman. He was a Jew. Who carried out this destruction? Kaganovich-a Jew. Moreover, Trotsky, Zinoviev, and Kamenyev were all Jews.

[Cucurnia] I do not understand.

[Vasilev] You do not understand because you do not live here. You do not understand because you do not earn R120 a month, because you are a foreigner. We have nothing against the Jews: There are some decent people even among them. However, our analysis of the facts always confronts us with the Jewish nationality. Were Beria and Yagoda not Jews? Were the administrators of many of the Stalinist prison camps not Jews? We are not anti-Semitic, but the truth must be told. Now 20 percent of the state's leadership posts are held by Jews, who represent only 0.69 percent of the population. This actually goes against the constitution. No less than 50 percent of doctors of science and candidates are Jews too. The majority of members of professional unions—composers, writers, movie makers, jurists, medics, and so forth—are also Jews, and they are supposed to be persecuted. There is never any mention of the persecuted Russians. In any case all Jews who have wanted to do so have emigrated with their pockets full of money, while the Russians have always been, and remain, poor. Nobody is concerned about them.

[Cucurnia] Be that as it may, there are no Jews within the Politburo and Secretariat now.

[Vasilev] You are mistaken. I have my suspicions.

[Cucurnia] Surely it is not the case, is it, that Communists, Marxists, are Zionists?

[Vasilev] I did not say that but since you suggest it, I will bear it in mind....

Literary Critic Discusses Writers Congress
LD022248 Moscow TASS in English 1715 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—Perestroika is increasingly reflected in the literary affairs in the USSR. This is noted at a plenary meeting of the board of the USSR Writers' Union, in its second day in Moscow.

Prominent literary critic Vladimir Lakshin told a TASS correspondent that literary magazines now publish writings on themes which were not touched upon in the past. Works of authors whose names had been relegated to oblivion appeared now. Works of Gumilev, Khodasevich, Zamyatin, Nabokov can be read now. Everything written by Pasternak, Platonov, Bulgakov, Akhmatova, Tvardovskiy, other masters is published now. Anatoliy Rybakov's novel "Children of the Arbat" and Vladimir Dudintsev's "White Smocks" caught the attention of readers by their bold publicistic contents. The former presents the realities of the political situation of the early thirties while the latter reflects stormy debates in Soviet biology in the late forties. There is an encouraging new atmosphere of the discussion of any matters related to history and present-day state of society, an atmosphere of tolerance to different shades of views, which are held sincerely even if erroneously.

The process of spiritual renewal, of perestroika is many faceted. It is not limited to the publishing of books which had earlier been suppressed, holds writer Oleg Mikhailov. Contemporary literature is living and developing, is raising complex problems of life, of the struggle between the good and the evil. Truly remarkable books have appeared of late. They include, above all, Valentin Rasputin's works, Chingiz Aitmatov's novel "The Chopping Block", Viktor Astafyev's "Sad Detective Story".

Speaking at the plenum, Secretary of the Board of the USSR Writers' Union Yuriy Verchenko said that perestroika requires substantial changes in the structure and activity of the creative workers union. The new regulations of the USSR Writers' Union are being drafted now. They envisage the further democratisation of the union's activity and enhancement of the responsibility for the solution of the problems of book publishing.

KOMMUNIST No 4 Publishes Plenum Reports
PM031003 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 88
Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Journal's Latest Issue"]

[Text] The latest, fourth issue of the journal KOMMUNIST opens with the materials of the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum. It carries the information report on the plenum, M.S. Gorbachev's speech "Revolutionary Restructuring Requires Ideology of Renewal," the report "On Progress in the Restructuring of Secondary and Higher Schools and the Party's Tasks in Implementing It," and the plenum resolutions "On the Speech of M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum" and "On Progress in the Restructuring of Secondary and Higher Schools and the Party's Tasks in Implementing It."

The journal continues to carry materials for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

"New Approaches to Resolving the Country's Water Problems" is the title of a conversation with Academicians B. Laskorin and V. Tikhonov. A number of readers' letters are devoted to discussing the draft Kolkhoz Model Statute. The historian V. Kozlov contributes the article "Socialist Revolution and the Individual." The editorial article "Socialism and Religion" is devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Decree on the Separation of the Church From the State and Schools From the Church.

Stalin Still 'Weighing Heavily' on Attitudes

PM031457 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 9,
28 Feb 88 p 2

[Ales Adamovich article: "The War Was Won by the People"; first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "It was at his feet that the fascist colours were dropped during the Victory Parade in front of the Mausoleum. It was he who planned all the operations at the front. It was he who knew about every motor vehicle sent to the front. It was Stalin's voice that could be heard on the hot line at any hour of day and night."

From a letter by A. Khamafitova (Leningrad)

Newspapers receive letters like this. And not just MOSCOW NEWS. I, for one, was taken to court by a veteran of the Patriotic War because of an interview I gave to LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, in which I talked about Stalin's crimes. The plaintiff's main argument was this: We won the war thanks to Stalin and his name. The court dismissed the suit. Nevertheless, this case suggests to me that the times of the cult are still weighing heavily upon us. Stalin's organizational ability or some other ability often overshadows his mistakes and crimes, and relates to the background those who really bore the brunt of, and won, the war. The war was won by the people.

Let's imagine an aircraft is flying on course when a terrorist bursts into the cockpit, kills the pilots, members of the crew and some of the passengers. The aircraft continues on course thanks to the automatic pilot but the terrorist has to land it somehow—he wants to live after all. A few members of the crew are still alive, so, after consulting them, the terrorist manages a crash landing during which other passengers are killed. But a few passengers survive. What is the reaction? Instead of seizing the terrorist, everyone rushes up to thank and praise him. Something similar happened in our life as well. But Stalin even praised us (out of surprise?). You remember—for exceptional patience. It is not yet known, Stalin averred, how another nation in our position would have behaved....

Indeed, the people had to muster all their strength and pay with their own blood, the greatest amount of blood, for the sake of victory. And yet there are some who insist on glorifying Stalin and not the people—notwithstanding?! We are surprising people! It is time we understood

that so long as Stalin remains the "banner of victory" in the eyes of many, his flesh and blood need not fear any reforms or revolutions. Shall we imperil perestroika today just for the sake of Stalin?

We still remember the loud oration in honour of Stalin's ten strikes against the enemy. Today we know well enough which of our military leaders prepared them. The Battle of Stalingrad, Operation Bagration, and others. However, we also know of at least ten other strikes by Stalin...against his own army.

First. In 1937-1939 thousands of the most experienced Red Army commanders were labeled "enemies of the people" and wiped out.

Second. We still refer to it mildly as "Stalin's miscalculation"—Stalin's order, after signing the nonaggression pact with Hitler, to undo all our military preparations—for which the Army and the country paid so dearly.

And when Stalin abandoned the Army, going into seclusion for ten days in Kuntsevo, either frightened or "offended" (it would be interesting to understand this). Much has already been told about those horrible days: the collapsed fronts and lines of advance, the calls from everywhere to the "centre" in the belief that he who had taken all power into his own hands should be in the right place, should be aware of the situation and, of course, should be taking steps.... There are many things for which Stalin mustn't be forgiven, those ten days especially.

Thus, one after the other: new "strikes by Stalin" against his own men, against victory.

Near Kiev, Stalin prevented the armies from withdrawing in time to escape encirclement....

Near Kharkov, Stalin insisted on mounting an offensive, disregarding the views of military experts. Again there was defeat and more prisoners of war....

In the Crimea, he entrusted the offensive to Mekhlis, a high-handed functionary who had earned his stripes solely by inflating the Stalin cult....

And what was the cost of his "miscalculation" not in 1941, but in 1942: the concentration of our troops and hardware near Moscow, instead of in the south.

If the people continue to cherish the lie-illusion about Stalin—"There was order! Prices were lowered! With his name we worked to win and won"—a stronghold will be preserved for the enemies of perestroika.

The first thing that must be done: remove, at last, the cut-and-dried portrait of Stalin in uniform from our films at least. Enough of Liberations, Victories, Battles near Moscow—it is time to speak about Stalin as honestly as our finest literary works speak about the war.

It is possible to respect, forgive and cherish feelings of long affection for a far from ideal person (how many ideal ones are there?) for definite services which are also credited to Stalin. But this person slandered so many that even 35 years after his death we have not yet been able to acquit all those innocent people ruined by him. How is it possible to have any reservations about such a person? But to convince everyone, we need to have facts. We need books, films and documentary works (or written on a documentary basis)—and then many things in our present-day intellectual and social life will acquire a much needed clarity.

Correction to Zhitomir Oil Pipeline Burst

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Oil Pipeline Bursts in Zhitomir Oblast," published in the 3 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 47-48:

Page 48, column one, last paragraph, second sentence, reads ...the Uzh River has been precluded both for... (substituting "has been" for "is")

Correction to Officials Baku Enterprises Tour

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Latest on Armenian, Azerbaijan Protests" under the subhead "Officials Tour Baku Enterprises" published in the 2 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, p 42:

Column two, paragraph two, sentences one and two read ...and workers of all its establishments and cultural departments. Comrades Razumovskiy and... (rewording, clearing queried word)

Same paragraph, sentence two reads ...scientists about the great role of Soviet intellectuals in the perestroika process, the spiritual renewal of society, in the internationalist education of workers, and the task... (rewording, clearing queried, indistinct words)

Economic

Management Accountability Called Reform's Key
PM031711 Moscow *EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA*
No 7
in Russian Feb 88 (Signed to Press 11 Feb 88) p 14

[Article by Yu. Sukhotin, chief scientific worker at the USSR Academy of Sciences TSEMI [Central Institute of Economics and Mathematics], and V. Dement'yev, senior scientific worker, under the rubric: "Questions of Theory": "Economic Reform and the Forces That Slow It Down"]

[Text] As distinct from past, unsuccessful attempts at reforming the economic mechanism, the restructuring being carried out today is taking seriously the conservative forces and management stereotypes which could slow down the transformations.

This is evidenced by the very recognition of the actual existence of such forces, and the understanding of restructuring as a long, stepwise process. But less serious approaches to reform are also frequently encountered. The outdated is prematurely consigned to the "past."

New Forms, Old Stereotypes [subhead]

Recent practice shows that conservative forces do not, as a rule, wage an open struggle against new management forms but try to give them the same old substance. Thus, the optional control figures designed to "untie the hands" of enterprises is being used by ministries to escalate supplementary targets—which undermines the enterprises' independence.

State orders are turned into a new edition of "gross output" and remain, as ever, directive targets.

It is impossible to overcome the forces of deceleration successfully without explaining that the old management system is extremely solid and has a certain internal logic.

It has destroyed repeated attempts to reform it, demonstrating a great capacity for reproduction.

It is naive to suppose that mere voluntarism holds this system together.

We believe it is incorrect to make one-sided attempts to depict it as the result of a violation of the objective law of value by the arbitrary rule of administrators or as the result of damage to the harmonious edifice of planning by commodity-money "rottenness."

In real economic life the need has been demonstrated for both "horizontal" relations between partners—taking the form of commodity-money relations—and "vertical," managerial relations.

Both types of interaction are subordinate to objective natural laws.

But up till now many economic leaders have sincerely believed that management processes are the sphere of purely subjective decisions.

Yet the actions of both the managers and the managed—for all their diversity—are quite stereotyped and predictable and can be fully explained by their position in the management system.

Thus, the behavior of any functionary, the stability of whose positions is determined by approval from above, reveals a dual nature.

Of course, conscientious and effective work makes it possible to earn such approval.

But it is also possible not to try very hard, if the level of demand is low.

The lower the demand, the more stable the position of functionaries coping with their commitments.

The negative consequences of such functionary behavior are aggravated by the similarity of the managed and the managers' positions.

If the latter are also an executive body in the multistage hierarchy of the management system, they gain socially from a decrease in exactingness "up the ladder."

For this reason it is not surprising that economically useful initiatives and efforts by subordinate workers and collectives are suppressed. Added to this is opposition "from the side," from colleagues and cofunctionaries. They also oppose the "illumination" of real opportunities which make life more difficult for both themselves and the leadership.

The "Lie low" motto triumphs.

Thus, the braking forces are not concentrated in any one link of national economic management, but operate in the very core of the executive hierarchy and affect both leading and ordinary workers.

From Proprietorial Positions [subhead]

The experience of the stagnant years has shown the great range which negative managerial behavior can take on if it does not meet with a proper rebuff. Appeals, inducements, and short-term campaigns to improve leadership style do not help.

So there must be present in the actual management system a factor to neutralize undesirable actions by economic leaders and to channel their desire to improve their own positions to the economy's benefit.

The image of the owner—so popular today—is such a factor.

Appeals are often made to him, but attempts are rarely made to reveal the essence of his functions or the source of his salutary influence on the economy.

Yet the owner is the person who can impose order in any production link. Consequently, he is bound to have greater authority than a manager of any rank. In addition, the social position of the owner is exclusively linked with the well-being and fate of the enterprise.

Both these signs are determined by relationship of ownership of the means of production.

It is precisely the owner who directs the production process at his own discretion and who hires or fires any of its participants.

The prosperity of decline of an enterprise means the social ascent or degradation (impoverishment, ruin) of the owner. An economic leader with fewer powers is a different matter.

He can climb the social ladder even if the enterprise declines or even collapses. Let's remember the practice of transferring good-for-nothing leaders to new "executive" posts.

The relationship between the proprietorial and managerial principles is especially complex in conditions of collective ownership. This successfully realizes proprietorial functions only on the basis of competent democratic procedures.

Otherwise the joint owners find themselves threatened by division and the weakening of proprietorial power.

Strategic leadership then in practice transfers to managerial hierarchies, virtually irrespective of the nominal owners of the production facility. Administrative "autonomy" is established, and negative managerial behavior is given scope.

Socialist ownership, especially ownership by the whole people, requires highly developed democratic mechanisms to ensure the involvement of all working people in the adoption of proprietorial decisions which determine the fate of the economy. Long delays in creating such mechanisms is the leitmotiv of the period of stagnation, with its strikingly pronounced administrative autonomy. The revival of proprietorial zeal must be based not on verbal appeals to the "sense of being boss," but on the development of the working people's sovereignty through the deepening of social self-management in the economy.

It is incorrect to identify this process only with democratization at enterprises, leaving the positions of the top leadership as before. The top economic bodies are after all only management institutions responsible to society.

The period of stagnation exposed very forcefully the inadequacy of this responsibility and the growth of departmental-bureaucratic tyranny, whereby decisions were often made on behalf of society which inflicted major economic damage on it and undermined the prestige of the socialist system of economic activity.

For this reason the top leadership positions also require profound democratization on the basis of the Leninist principles of socialist people's power. This means sector councils, referenda on the most important problems of public life, the appointment by election of all officials without exception, and their interchangeability at any time on the voters' initiative as an effective response by working people to the quality of any particular economic decision.

It also means social expert appraisals, the presentation of views opposed to projects of major national economic importance, and much else.

The road leading from self-management of enterprises to social self-management of the people also follows a natural path of eliminating administrative stereotypes in such questions as directing the actions of higher economic leadership organs and shaping socioeconomic policy.

The underdevelopment of methods for exercising proprietorial authority has switched people's interests and activeness to the improvement of their own "official position" (post, office, workstation). This has acutely weakened the solidarity between workers and leaders as members of a socialist community striving to make the national economy prosper, and replaced it with a different kind of solidarity—the joint vested interest of managers and managed in reducing the demands for work results.

Working people frequently do not take their proprietorial position seriously and treat public property as "nobodies," following the ill-famed formula that "you are the boss here, not a visitor, so take every last nail away." The procedures which have become established at work suit many people with their leveling, wage padding, and so forth, which give no scope for initiative or socially useful efforts but, instead, require no great selflessness and guarantee a reasonable ("no worse than others") existence.

The widespread nature of inertia and parasitism among the broad masses, as the direct result of the "nonproprietorial distortion" of the economic system, is also one of the most powerful braking forces.

As stagnant phenomena developed in all sections of society an urgent need for change began to be felt. But change only began when real social forces capable of implementing transformations matured. At the same time the real ownership principle inherent in the very nature of socialism could not disappear from the economy even in the unfavorable atmosphere of the stagnant years. It showed itself in the initiatives and the efforts, imbued with an all-state approach, of many workers, leaders, and production collectives. The vitality of such socially useful actions is perhaps displayed with particular vividness precisely when they are forced to break through attempts to suppress them "from above" and "from the side" and when, for their initiators, they mean losses in pay, decline in service, and deteriorating production indicators. The profound thrust of the reform being carried out consists in transforming such socially useful actions from actions based on pure enthusiasm, even "punishable" actions, into actions having socio-legal defense and backed up by economic incentives, and in purposefully neutralizing all attempts to fetter these actions. Those who want to work better and work more and who want to receive the corresponding reward

actively favor restructuring and support it by their actions and their position. It is hardly correct, however, to divide everybody up from "personal" positions into supporters and opponents of restructuring. After all, those who recognize it frequently still find themselves in a system of economic, organizational, and managerial relations which forces them to act in a "pre-restructuring" mode. Full economic accountability (khozraschet), self-capitalization, democratization of management, and a change in managerial structures make it possible to eradicate the forces of retardation and teach people to work and manage in accordance with true socialist principles.

On Market Opportunities [subhead]

An important form of developing economic independence is the activation of commodity-money mechanisms. The method of social recognition of work quality inherent in such mechanisms is not approval from above, but appraisal through the acquisition of products by the consumers themselves. A necessary condition of the useful influence of commodity relations on production is the possibility of real choice by the consumer of partner-suppliers, that is, a situation of intensive competition among them. None of the other attributes of marketability—full economic accountability, orientation toward profits, or self-capitalization—guarantees by itself an increase in production efficiency, if economic competition between producers is lacking. What is more, in conditions whereby the producer has a market monopoly, all these attributes can also be turned against the consumer and against production efficiency. In substance the consequences of monopolization are to a large degree similar to the results of the domineering management of an "autonomous" administration—increasing prices for products, decreasing quality, and a slowing down of technical progress. Both administrative dominance and monopolistic suppression of the consumer signify degradation of the socialist quality of planned economic management. An arbitrary market of dispersed partners is its direct negative.

The radical antidote both to administrative and market tyranny is the democratization of the most important national economic decisions. The long domination of administration has radically weakened the role of social recognition of the results of production directly by consumers. This makes it particularly topical today to activate this role and develop commodity-money mechanisms. But their main socially useful quality—competition—cannot be implemented in an arbitrary fashion in today's economy. The market itself needs to be regulated, guided by the interests and sovereignty of socialist society.

It seems to us that the development of economic reform, making it possible to radically overcome the forces of retardation, should follow consistently the following lines. Democratization of all management links, designed to prevent their isolation, ensure a sense of

responsibility to society, and activate working people's proprietorial powers. The removal of artificial restrictions from the development of commodity-money mechanisms, combined with centralized regulation, ensuring the planned activation of that valuable element of such mechanisms—competition. Measures to organize consumers assume great importance. We are talking about democratic organizations of consumers themselves, with the opportunity to influence the quality of goods and services supplies to the population.

Successful restructuring needs to overcome subjective braking forces such as lack of attention to possible future developments of renewal processes and a number of less obvious consequences of reform, which we must look further ahead than just the next step to understand. Appeals for spurts and rush work—then we will look into it, they say—are harmful to the cause. This style of thinking is itself a graphic stereotype of stagnation and can lead to practical failures in and moral discrediting of restructuring.

Aganbegyan: Rent Increase Rumors 'Groundless'
PM031451 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English
No 9, 28 Feb 88 p 2

[NOVOSTI interview with Academician Abel Aganbegyan: "Taxation, Prices, Rent"]

[Text] There have been many questions in this country and from abroad regarding the economic reform now underway in the USSR. Where some things have been left unexplained, rumours have often spread. "MN" readers have posed many questions on this issue. Letters have been sent in by Anna Dotsenko and Armen Vartanyan, USSR, Gyula Havran, Hungary, Jacques Morat, France.

Academician Abel Aganbegyan, member of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, answered some of the questions in his interview to the NOVOSTI Press Agency.

[Question] The country's administrative section is facing staff cuts. On a large scale?

[Aganbegyan] The State Planning Committee of the USSR now has 30 per cent less staff, other ministries and departments have had their staff cut by half on average, and public organizations by a quarter. Almost all management bodies have had to change their organizational structure. All this deals a big blow to bureaucracy, but time will show the actual effectiveness of this blow.

[Question] The Law on the Enterprise is also spearheaded against the old bureaucratic system. However, some people insist on interpreting it in their own way. Wouldn't it be better to establish a body resembling a Constitutional Court aimed at putting an end to such "self-styled attitudes"?

[Aganbegyan] We have such a body—the State Commission for Management. It is authorized to take effective decisions to rectify any deviations from the law. I'm a member of that Commission, its science expert.

[Question] Will perestroika in the economy tell on the level of income tax?

[Aganbegyan] First, I would like to point out the tax you are referring to is not really "income" tax, that's just a convenient name for it. In economic terms it is a tax on all kinds of income, and property is considered as one form. This system of taxation was introduced in Hungary at the beginning of the year.

Here taxes on certain kinds of income have sprung up haphazardly—a difficult and painful issue, which will not be brought up during the first stage of the economic reform.

[Question] Is an increase in rent likely?

[Aganbegyan] No definite decision has been passed as yet. So, any rumours are absolutely groundless. If there's to be a decision passed concerning pensions, rents, health services, education and other issues, then this will first become the subject of a nationwide discussion in the press.

[Question] There are many labour veterans in the USSR who would like to continue in their work. But, some of them are afraid that a government decision might be passed on obligatory retirement for all people above the pension age. What do you think about this?

[Aganbegyan] There will be no such decision. On the contrary, the draft of the new legislation on pensions, prepared at the request of the CPSU Central Committee, is designed to encourage such people. The draft may be published this year.

Council Official on Threat to Collective's Wages
PM040904 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 88
Second Edition p 3

[Letter from F. Purtov, chairman of a labor collective council in Krasnoyarsk, under the rubric "Letters to PRAVDA": "In No Hurry To Pay"]

[Text] Our timber machine building plant produces the LT-65B loader. Our main client is the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry.

But this is what worries us: For more than 6 months now the ministry's enterprises and associations have virtually stopped paying for output dispatched. The debt to our plant totals more than R2 million. We have now gone over to self-financing and full self-capitalization. The lack of funds in the plant's account prevents the acquisition of materials and equipment and stops the financing of the construction of an apartment block. There is

no possibility of beginning work on going over to the new wage rates, and so forth. The payment of wages to the collective of 1,500 people is under threat.

We have appealed to the minister, Comrade Busygin, about this. The impression is that government resolutions are not obligatory for the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, because no measures are being adopted to improve the work of the ministry's enterprises.

F. Purtoy, labor collective council chairman, Krasnoyarsk.

Chamber of Commerce Congress Opens in Moscow
*LD190936 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT
19 Feb 88*

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR opened a congress here today.

The delegates will hear a report on the chamber's activities in 1983 through 1987, consider changes to its statute, outline prospects for further work, and elect steering bodies.

The chamber groups over 5,000 factories, scientific centers, foreign trade associations and domestic trade organizations.

It maintains business relations with chambers of commerce and similar organizations in more than 80 countries as well as with international organizations and shares in the activities of mixed chambers of commerce.

The congress will examine guidelines for further work in the light of decisions by the government to increase the chamber's role in the Soviet Union's economic, scientific, technological and commercial ties with other countries.

Vladimir Kamentsev, a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission, read out a message of greeting to the congress from the government.

It stressed the economy's large role in developing and democratizing Soviet society and pointed to the high importance of foreign economic contacts to taking advantage of the international division of labor.

A report containing an account of the chamber's activities was delivered by Vladislav Malkevich, president of its Presidium.

Ministers Greet Congress

*PM011223 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 88
Second Edition p 3*

[USSR Council of Ministers greetings message to USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry Congress]

[Text] To the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry Congress:

The USSR Council of Ministers greets the delegates and guests of the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry Congress.

Your congress, which is taking place in the atmosphere of the intensive work which the Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, are carrying out to fundamentally restructure the national economic management, and of the expansion and deepening of the democratization of all aspects of our society's life, assumes particular significance.

In these conditions the role of the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry is fundamentally changing. It is called upon to become in practice the organ representing the interests of industrial enterprises and associations, research and other organizations participating in businesslike cooperation with foreign partners and to actively assist their work in foreign markets, in mastering new forms of cooperation, in developing direct contacts and industrial, scientific and technical cooperation, and in creating joint enterprises and production facilities.

Resolving these important tasks requires improving the effectiveness of the Chamber of Trade and Industry's activity, ensuring high economic indicators based on full economic accountability, self-financing and consistent efforts to develop exports of Soviet goods in every way and to change their structure, primarily by increasing the share of machines and equipment and fundamentally improving their quality.

Extensive prospects are opening up for the chamber's members in introducing achievements of scientific and technical progress into Soviet practice and disseminating advanced experience of implementing foreign economic ties, in particular that of our partners among the fraternal CEMA countries.

The restructuring of the chamber's activity presupposes a creative attitude to work, the destruction of outmoded stereotypes, and the strengthening of collaboration with production collectives.

The USSR Council of Ministers expresses confidence that the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry, in fulfilling the tasks before it, will fully utilize its great opportunities and will expand and deepen its ties with foreign business circles and international organizations. This will help to strengthen peaceful good-neighborly

relations with other states and to ensure our country's more active participation in the international division of labor in the interests of further developing its national economy and improving the international situation.

USSR Council of Ministers

Kamentsev, Tolstykh Attend

PM020857 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 88
Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Main Directions"]

[Excerpts] To resolutely increase work, actively assist the development of the USSR's trade, economic, and scientific ties with other countries, and more effectively participate in implementing the radical economic reform—these are the tasks which the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry, whose congress was held 19 February in Moscow, is setting itself. [passage omitted]

V.M. Kamentsev, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission chairman, and B.L. Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, took part in the congress.

Agricultural

Mid-February Weather and Crop Status

PM031509 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
25 Feb 88 p 2

[Agrometeorologist N. Korenkova report: "Weather and Crops. Winter Crops Under Snow Cover and in the Fields of the Central Asian Farms They Are Growing"]

[Text] Over most of the USSR's European territory the weather remained warmer than usual in the second 10 days of February. In the North and Northwest Regions, the Baltic republics, Belorussia, and in the western Central Region it became colder 19-20 February, and in the Ukraine and in Moldavia it became colder 21-22 February. In the northern Volga-Vyatka, Urals, Central, Central Chernozem, and Volga Regions, and also in the eastern Northwest Region winter grain crops and the perennial grasses under snow cover which protected the plants reliably enough from the harmful effect of the low temperature. It was generally 15-25 cm deep or more. The minimum soil temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth remained within the range from -3° to -8° (in places in the autonomous republics along the Volga and in Ulyanovsk, Kuybyshev, and Orenburg Oblasts it ranged between -10° and -14°, which is above the crops' critical freezing point).

In the western Northwest Region and in most of the territory of the Baltic Region, Belorussia, the Ukraine, and the North Caucasus the snow cover was not very deep, but there was no severe frost, and the minimum soil temperature at winter crop tillering node depth

ranged from -4° to -9° (in places in Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Voroshilovgrad, and Rostov Oblasts it dropped and ranged from -10° to -14°), which was not dangerous for the crops. In the Crimea and Krasnodar Kray on certain days the air temperature rose to between 8° and 14°, and the winter grain crops and perennial grasses started growing again.

In the majority of agricultural regions in Siberia it was very cold. On certain nights there was 27-37° of frost, and in places 40-45°. Subsequently the frosts were lighter. The winter grain crops and the perennial grasses were under snow cover. Thus the minimum soil temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth did not drop below -12°. The wintering of the winter crops was going smoothly. At the beginning of the 3d 10-day period the frosts intensified again.

In southern regions of Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan on certain days the maximum air temperature was 14-19°. The winter grain crops grew for most of the 10-day period. Alfalfa showed slight growth; the height of the shoots varied between 3 to 15 cm. Swelling of buds on apple, cherry, apricot, and mulberry trees was noted.

In the first days of the 3d 10-day period it grew warmer here. Active growth was noted in winter grain crops, and young alfalfa shoots continued to grow.

Seed Stocks' Quality, Quantity Reported

PM031235 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
28 Feb 88 p 1

[Nikolay Osyckin report under the rubric "On the Day's Topics": "Is It a Golden Fund of the Harvest?"]

[Text] In Poltava Oblast last fall I met with Saveliy Sidorovich Golovko, Kirov Kolkhoz chairman in Lokhvitiskiy Rayon. He and I got to talking about many important questions then: moldboardless plowing [bezotvalka], fertilizers, technical potential. Each time, however, the chairman endeavored to emphasize the special significance of seeds in crop farming.

"We always have a full supply of them," he pointed out. "The quality is good. After all, seeds are the golden fund of the harvest..."

These are very accurate words, drawn from the storehouse of folk wisdom. Precisely such a fund provides the kolkhoz with big harvests. Last year it harvested 57 quintals of wheat, 60 quintals of corn, and 420 quintals of sugar beets per hectare. Now too, on the eve of the upcoming sowing, first class seeds lie in the farm's storehouses. In a week or two they will be carefully dressed with preparations to guard against diseases and pests, and then they will be sown in full confidence that the grains will send out good shoots and that their heavy ears will gladden the farmers.

Such an assiduous, thrifty attitude toward seeds is characteristic of kolkhozes and sovkhozes not only in Lokhvitskiy Rayon but also in Globinskiy, Karlovskiy, Lubenskiy, and Kotelevskiy Rayons, where many farms thresh 45-50-60 quintals of grain per hectare. More than 1.5 million tonnes of seeds of grain and pulse crops have been laid in store for sowing in the Ukraine, and they are all quality seeds classed first or second in terms of their sowing standard.

Almost the same may be said of the Belorussian agro-industrial complex, where more than 90 percent of the seed stock is made up of first class seeds. This is no coincidence. In each oblast there farms have been singled out to constitute a base for seed growing, strain replacement and strain renovation are efficiently organized, there are seed plots on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and a reliable cleaning and drying base has been created everywhere. The republic gosagroprom, agro-industrial committees, and rayon agro-industrial associations keep a firm hold on seed growing.

This is precisely how the seed-growing sector must be developed in all parts of the country, and the harvest's firm foundation must be created on this basis. To carry out spring sowing kolkhozes and sovkhozes will need 18.5 million tonnes of seeds of grain and pulse crops, not counting corn. By and large this quantity exists, but that is if you take the average. If you take a cross section through the republics and oblasts, the seed availability stands at 98 percent in the RSFSR, 90 percent in Azerbaijan, 65 percent in Armenia, 64 percent in Uzbekistan, and 42 percent in Tajikistan. There is a complex situation in Saratov Oblast, where there is a tremendous volume of sowing, but the need for seeds is not being satisfied by even 90 percent. One-fourth of the seeds is also lacking on Bashkir and Kurgan farms. Just look at the reasons some leaders and agronomists use to justify such a situation: drought, rains, or frosts. In fact, they act irresponsibly and ineptly in organizing seed growing from its beginnings through to the end results. Restructuring is proceeding agonizingly in the sector. Its material and technical base is fragmented and is one of the worst in the agro-industrial complex.

In channeling efforts toward rectifying the situation, it is important to devote special attention to improving seed quality. So far only 88 percent of the checked quantity of seeds comes up to standard for sowing, 72 percent meeting the requirements for the first and second classes. According to an RSFSR State Statistical Committee report, by the end of the first 10 days in February 25 percent of wheat seeds, 38 percent of buckwheat seeds, 87 percent of flax seeds, and 44 percent of perennial grass seeds in the republic were of poor quality. Just one-third of the stocks is rated as first-class. Some 32-44 percent of the grain on farms in Kalinin, Chelyabinsk, and Tyumen Oblasts and in Krasnodar Kray, 50 percent in Perm and Irkutsk Oblasts, and 67 percent in Amur Oblast is of poor quality. In the non-Chernozem Zone not even one-tenth of the seeds meets the requirements of the first class.

As can be seen, the "golden fund" of the harvest is still not that everywhere. Much effort must be made to ensure that every quintal of seeds is carefully cleaned and dried and attains the highest assessment for germinating capacity, moisture, cleanness, and all other quality parameters. This year no poor-quality grain must be sown on a single hectare. Where people permit this, they will be wittingly dooming themselves to a shortfall to the extent of at least one-third of the harvest. This is why it is important during the days remaining before spring to increase the pace of seed preparation most decisively. For machine operators on certain kolkhozes and sovkhozes have already driven seed drills into the fields in the Crimea, the North Caucasus, and Central Asia.

Stocks can be replenished and seed quality improved by means of interfarm and interoblast exchange and by acquiring seeds from state resources. The USSR Ministry of Grain Products has reported that the department is prepared to give a loan and to sell and exchange more than 3.6 million tonnes of seeds of wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, millet, rice, and other crops. The best commodity batches of grain are being prepared as an insurance. The chief thing now is to accelerate the removal of seeds from elevators and not delay the matter until the roads become bad, when even powerful "Kirovets" will be unable to deliver grain to farms. Unfortunately, this work is still proceeding slowly, particularly in Siberia and in the Urals. It is still necessary to check imported seeds, dress them with the appropriate preparations, and prepare them for sowing. Many batches of them are composed of the wrong strains and are not distinguished by good quality.

The lack of initiative on the part of certain services of the RSFSR Gosagroprom is quite incomprehensible. They have not given Odessa corn-processing plants timely orders to dispatch corn seeds to central, Urals, and Siberian regions of the republic. It should, incidentally, be noted that there is a possibility this year of sending farms considerably more early-ripening hybrids which produce good cobs even under non-Chernozem Zone and Siberian conditions. It would be a mistake not to take advantage of this opportunity and not to create conditions for increasing the harvest of high-quality grain and feed as a result of extending the area sown to corn.

The interests of fulfilling the Food Program demand an increase in the production of oil-bearing, pulse, and hulled crops. Sufficient sunflower, soybean, and rape seeds have been laid in store for sowing. But it is impossible to boast of their quality. What kind of high harvest is it possible to speak of on Lipetsk, Voronezh, and Tambov Oblast farms, if there was a virtual absence of quality seeds of pulse crops there by the beginning of February? Seed stocks of buckwheat, sugar beets, vegetable crops, perennial grasses, and potatoes await improvement without delay.

Scientific

'Progress-34' Departs 'Mir' Complex, Ends Flight
*LD041043 Moscow TASS in English 1034 GMT
4 Mar 88*

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—By a TASS special correspondent at the Ground Control Center:

The unmanned space supply craft Progress-34, which was launched into near-earth orbit on January 21, 1988, completed its flight.

On January 23 it docked with the manned platform Mir. All the operations planned for their joint flight, including unloading, pumping drinking water to the platform's tanks and refuelling, were fulfilled.

At 6 hours 40 minutes Moscow time today Progress-34 departed from the platform. The spacecraft was then oriented and its propulsion system started up on commands from Ground Control.

As a result of deceleration, the spacecraft went to a descent trajectory, entered the dense layers of the atmosphere, and ceased existence.

Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov in the past few days underwent a medical check, conducted experiments to assess the dynamic characteristics of the orbiting platform, and set up scientific equipment for planned studies.

In keeping with their program for space materials studies, the crew today are to begin a series of experiments to ascertain the peculiarities of the melting and crystallization of various materials when heated by a concentrated flow of radiant energy. The experiments involved a mirror-beam furnace.

According to the results of the medical check, the cosmonauts are in good health and feeling well.

They are continuing their work in orbit.

'Specialized Module' To Be Added to 'Mir'
*LD040256 Moscow in English to North America
2300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] Two years have elapsed since the Soviet orbital station Mir was launched. Here's our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy to review some of the work accomplished so far and some of the work ahead:

[Belitskiy] [passage omitted] At the end of this year, another heavy specialized module is to be added to the station. This modular principle of the Mir station has important advantages. Research facilities can thus be added to the complex in orbit, making for a flexible research program and increasing its scientific yield. [passage omitted]

Conference on Comprehensive Study of Man Opens
*PM031419 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 88
Second Edition p 3*

[TASS report: "Man and Time: All-Union Scientific Conference"]

[Text] The problem of the study of man is a particularly acute one for the scientific world in the crucial periods of society's life when a qualitative renewal takes place in its economic and social activity. We need to know immeasurably more now than before about man in relation to the global problems of the present day—that is the main theme of the all-union conference entitled "Problems of the Comprehensive Study of Man," which opened in Moscow 22 February.

The presidium consisted of A.N. Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, V.A. Grigoryev, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Institutions Department, leaders of the USSR Academy of Sciences, eminent scientists representing all spheres of the science of man, and cultural figures.

Humanist traditions have never been stifled in the country's science, Academician I.T. Frolov said, opening the conference. Their renaissance today is scientists' objective response to the process begun in the country of the renewal of all aspects of life. We must regard this conference as the beginning of the rebirth of the entire range of scientific debates on the study of man. Substantial groundwork has been done to that end in Soviet science, and the important thing now is to make effective use of it in the interests of renewal.

Man is not only the driving force but also the supreme goal of progress. The world and its characteristics are changing before our very eyes, G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said. It is becoming increasingly technological, computerized, and industrial. Here, too, it is extremely necessary for us to conduct a social analysis of those changes, the scale and measure of which are provided by man himself, his needs, the motives behind his actions, his abilities and desires, his woes and his joys.

Every science engaged in the study of man has its own means of research. This factor is also the main brake hindering the creation of a single image of man. Progress in resolving this task is to be achieved not only by increasing the sum of knowledge in various areas but also by a rapid leap forward in the methodology of interdisciplinary research.

The need for a comprehensive study of man is becoming an increasingly urgent condition for activating the human factor, Academician P.V. Simonov believes. Until now we have not had any generally accepted

definitions of such crucial concepts as personality, character, temperament, and consciousness. We see the solution to this in the development of theoretical concepts which initially would be interdisciplinary in character and productive not in just one but in several specialized sectors of science belonging to the system of contemporary anthropology.

B.F. Lomov, corresponding member of the the USSR Academy of Sciences, said that most of the questions relating to man are unlikely to be resolved within the confines of any single science. At the moment, man is studied by a great many diverse disciplines which are not well interlinked, he noted. It is necessary to formulate an approach to enable each of the disciplines involved in comprehensive research to apply more effectively the theoretical and methodological apparatus it possesses and, at the same time, use what is provided by the other sciences studying the same problem.

Our attitude toward socialism and the near and long-term future essentially signifies our ability to come to terms with nature, S.P. Zalygin, chief editor of NOVYY MIR, said. It seemed to us quite recently that almost all of man's activities were beneficial. Now we are having doubts about whole areas of our activity because they often prove to be wrong. There must be no unpredictable consequences in questions to do with the preservation of nature. The speaker called for a more careful attitude toward natural resources and for them to be used correctly and efficiently. He said that debate on the problem of diverting some of the waters of the northern rivers to the south had been a vast gain of social thinking.

P.N. Fedoseyev, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, presented a review of the modern philosophical concepts of man.

Academician N.P. Bekhtereva commented on the recent successes in the sphere of neurophysiology and, in particular, on experiments in the study of the subtle workings of the brain.

Man in the system of national (ethnic) relations was the theme of the report delivered by Academician Yu.V. Bromley.

The report by K.V. Frolov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was devoted to various aspects of the study of the "man-machine-environment" system. The psychological and pedagogical principles of the shaping of the individual were examined by Academician V.V. Davydov of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, and V.P. Zinchenko, corresponding member of that academy. Academician N.P. Bochkov of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and V.P. Kaznacheyev delivered interesting reports, reflecting new genetic aspects of the study of man and ways of reinforcing his social and labor potential and improving his health.

The conference continues.

Military

Airfield Security Issue Resurfaces

PM031513 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

["Telephone Dialogue" with Major General of Aviation V. Fetisov, chief of staff of the Air Force Rear Services, by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel S. Levitskiy: "Subject Not Closed"; date and place not given]

[Text] On 12 January KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carried reports by officials on the measures taken following the appearance of the article "In a Domestic Atmosphere..." dealing with shortcomings in organizing the protection and defense of military airfields. One of the official replies, signed by the chief of staff of the Air Force Rear Services, stated that the measures being taken by the staff do not yet make it possible to fully solve all the problems. It was then that the editors posed this question to the Air Forces Rear Services Staff: How can a way out of the situation still be found?

So more than a month has elapsed, and our correspondent telephoned Major General of Aviation V. Fetisov, Air Force Rear Services chief of staff.

[Levitskiy] Viktor Alekseyevich, is a reply to the question posed by the newspaper being prepared?

[Fetisov] Of course it is. The problem raised by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, however, is very complex. To reply to the newspaper on the measures taken, it is, of course, necessary at least to take them. I cannot yet claim that absolutely everything possible has been done. I can report briefly on what has been done so far. Several meetings of command personnel officials have been held to discuss the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA article. Reports have been heard from some air force commanders of military districts on the state of affairs at military airfields.

[Levitskiy] On whose assistance is the Air Force Rear Services Staff counting to improve the protection and defense of airfields?

[Fetisov] We are counting not only on our own resources. The potential of the guard company of the separate airfield technical support battalion is well known at the Air Force Main Staff, for example. Organizational measures are being taken to enhance this potential. It is wrong, however, to take a path whereby people say: The airfield has grown, so we must increase the authorized company personnel. The equipping of airfields with modern means of protection must keep in step with the hardware there. Therefore we are involving the corresponding ministries and departments in helping to

resolve the problem, and we are introducing more engineering, technical, and electronic means of protection. There must be no artificial financial obstacles here: We are talking of a very vital matter—enhancing combat readiness.

In short, things have been standing still for a long time, and we must bestir ourselves and more quickly reorganize our work. We recently held exercises with rear service officers: They showed how it is possible to rationally and reliably resolve the question of airfield protection. Representatives of engineer troops helped us in this.

[Levitskiy] Do you consider that the article "In a Domestic Atmosphere..." concerns airmen alone?

[Fetisov] Experience of airfield protection and defense in Afghanistan, for example, has shown that this task can and must be resolved in cooperation with other categories of troops. Of course, it would be interesting to learn the opinion of officials from various staffs and services, and not just aviation ones.

The subject is not closed, and we will return to it again.

Ground Forces Chief Surveys Army Changes

PM021621 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 88
Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with USSR Deputy Defense Minister Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy by correspondent I. Andreyev on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces: "We are the Army of the People"]

[Text] On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces USSR Deputy Defense Minister Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of ground forces, met with an IZVESTIYA correspondent and answered his questions.

[Andreyev] You have devoted 52 years to our army. This is a colossal period of time, commensurate with the "age" of the Soviet Armed Forces. You have stepped on every rung of the officer's ladder, you were in the hottest spots of the Great Patriotic War—at Moscow, Stalin-grad, the Kursk Bulge—and ended the war at Berlin; and you received the highest military award... What are the main changes you have seen in our army, as a man with such an impressive combat career and who occupies such an important post?

[Ivanovskiy] This is the sort of question you cannot answer briefly. Perhaps I should confine myself to the main things distinguishing today's army from the worker-peasant Red Army of my youth. I graduated from the armored troops academy and I witnessed, in the late thirties, the fundamental technical modernization of the Army which was made possible as a result of successes in

Soviet industry. There were new types of tanks, organized into tank battalions and brigades. Artillery, engineering troops, and communications units were further developed. The first motorized rifle subunits, units, and formations appeared. Today they, known as motorized rifle troops since 1963, are equipped with powerful weapons capable of destroying ground and air targets, and they possess effective means of reconnaissance and control and nuclear weapons. The potential of this category of troops is indicated by the following example: The motorized rifle division has more tanks today than the tank corps in wartime. Another comparison: A single mortar volley is 31 times more powerful than that of a rifle division of 1939...

One remembers the roar of the quadruple "Maxim" guns which helped to repulse fascist air raids. Today the ground forces possess modern air defense facilities controlled by automatic systems. Whereas in the war it took an average of 400-600 shells to destroy an enemy aircraft, now one or two missiles suffice.

Over the decades the troops' engineering facilities have kept pace with the armaments. For example, a pontoon bridge can now be thrown across a river in a matter of minutes, whereas in the Great Patriotic War it used to take sappers dozens of hours to carry out this important operation...

Obviously, I am only giving isolated examples, but they are typical of the whole Army and Navy, and they illustrate the growth of their combat might.

[Andreyev] And people, Yevgeniy Filippovich? What distinguishes today's army personnel from the prewar personnel, from those who bore the brunt in 1941?

[Ivanovskiy] The patently higher level of literacy and education. Over 80 percent of the generals and officers in the Armed Forces have higher military or specialized education and 57 percent are engineers. What else can you expect when weapons and combat equipment are so complex the list of 134 specialties for privates and sergeants in wartime has now had to be extended to nearly 1,000 positions!

It must be said that the young people who are coming in to do their military service or are entering officer academies are ready to master this equipment. They are sufficiently adept in many spheres of knowledge and are simply more sophisticated than the new recruits of the thirties.

But the portrait of today's young soldier would be incomplete if one did not mention a degree of what one might call immaturity. In the first place, he is younger than the prewar draftee, who tended to be over 20. Not much difference, perhaps, but at that age it is a significant one. Second, we know what sort of time it was, life was harder than today, and young people were already working, getting calluses on their hands, and toughening

up generally. The rigors of the Army were a kind of extension of their civilian working life. At any rate, the new recruits did not have to learn how to wash a floor, peel potatoes, and quietly and calmly endure difficulties. Nowadays, however, you might not find a soldier capable of cutting the grass in front of the barracks. Even country boys have not mastered that traditional "tool"—the scythe.

There have been more serious problems in recent years. For young people of my generation it was considered a disgrace if they were not accepted for the Army because of certain misdemeanors in civilian life. I remember a lad from our settlement who displayed what they would now call almost criminal behavior. Because he was fatherless—his father had been killed in the civil war—Vasya had gotten into bad company. He was, therefore, not accepted into the Army, and that was a grave punishment in our eyes. In that system of values, if you were an officer in the Red Army you were seen as having a prestige position, particularly if you were handling equipment.

[Andreyev] Does it follow that the profession of officer does not have the same prestige in the eyes of young people today as it used to have?

[Ivanovskiy] To some extent I have to admit this is true, although there is no shortage of people wanting to join military academies. There are four or five people competing for each place. There is a shortage of candidates only for flying training establishments and for schools training submariners.

The quality of future officers is another problem, and not just their suitability for difficult service, but, if you like, the deliberate choice of profession, the conviction that it is the only possible one for that young man. A lad joins the ranks of the Armed Forces not because his plans outside the Army have failed. It is not something to fall back on, but the main option, something one wants to do. In my view, it is the shortage of personnel of this type that is our Armed Forces' recruitment problem.

[Andreyev] Will it not be aggravated by the new democratization of our society? I mean, won't the renunciation of administrative meddling in civilian organizations, in short, of command methods of the management of personnel put people off the army system in which subordinates unquestioningly obey superiors?

[Ivanovskiy] I am sure it will not put them off. Yes, subordinates must carry out officers' orders; an army without this fundamental principle is simply inconceivable. It is important that the meaning of the order should be clearly understood and taken in by the subordinate. Moreover, and we have stressed this in the new regulations which are being prepared for publication, a serviceman has all the rights of a Soviet person, given to him by the USSR Constitution. Strictly speaking, these rights were there before, but actual army life, which reflected

all the ills of our society, was such that they remained mere paper rights, as it happened. The Army is part of society and it is affected by all the processes taking place in society. The ostentation, the eulogization, and the pretense, which were all common in society, were also reflected in the Army. The officer corps did not remain unaffected by materialism, abuses of official position, and unscrupulous behavior... These things occurred, and they are happening even now.

Democratization is also taking place in the Army. Of course, one should not oversimplify the concept and extend it to attitudes toward orders, to the very principle of single command—it is unshakable. Stimulating the creative initiative of all ranks of servicemen and actually enhancing the role of public organizations, above all the Komsomol, are another matter. Turning a general meeting of the personnel into an effective instrument of democratization is also. Perhaps the most important thing is always to see a subordinate, a serviceman dependent on you, simply as a human being, with all the concomitant human preoccupations.

Frankly, the fact that a regiment may have a tearoom for the ranks and, say, a cafe for the officers has always gone against the grain with me. People are serving together but they are spending their free time in different places. I can remember Red Army clubs where the two groups would mingle. We say get closer to the men, but some officers consider it a disgrace to spend their free time with them.

Here is something that happened fairly recently at one higher military academy. A platoon commander thought the students in his charge were singing the ceremonial song wrong. He decided that the platoon should be punished and he ordered them to go on a 5-km cross-country run. Moreover, he accompanied the runners in a car. The officer's behavior was investigated, of course, and the corresponding conclusions were drawn. I am sure the students realized that they, the future officers, must not behave like that. If the platoon runs, you run too, you share all the burdens of army service with them.

[Andreyev] But probably some of these burdens are not inherent to service, not organic, so to speak?

[Ivanovskiy] They are, many of them. The Army has also been affected by the general underestimation of social and everyday conditions. Much remains to be done in this sphere. Above all, supplying officers and their families with housing, not explaining that the lack of amenities is due to, for example, the remoteness of the garrison. There must be more concern for servicemen's families, starting with their everyday problems and ending with the education of children. I remember when I was commanding the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, I noticed that the children of many officers were living and studying at boarding schools. I asked: Why is this necessary? They answered: So we do not have to take the children to school from remote garrisons. It was

more convenient, then. Another question: More convenient for whom? Scarcely for parents and children who are apart from one another. We sorted it all out: We started taking the children to school and back. It was a chore, but the families were together.

Without trying to relieve us, the military, of responsibilities for army social and consumer facilities, I have to say that sometimes the civilian authorities sometimes adopt a consumerist attitude toward our people. The Army's labor contribution to civilian construction is well known, for example, to the construction of the Baykal-Amur railroad and the elimination of the consequences of accidents, at the Chernobyl AES, in particular. Efficiency and organization—these qualities, inherent in servicemen, sometimes perform a decisive role in critical situations. We also appreciate the need to help the harvest, to help unload trains and trucks bringing vegetables to Moscow, for example. But how and in what conditions are the soldiers at the vegetable depots living and working? None of the "employers" would even think of giving them even a cup of hot tea or a place to rest during breaks. If there are no freight cars the lads spend the night on cement floors, on a pile of moldy sacks.... I am sure they ask us to provide far more men than they need. The dumb soldier is often making up for someone's negligence and irresponsibility.... We have digressed somewhat from the theme of the Soviet Armed Forces jubilee, but even during a jubilee we should not forget the problems we are facing.

[Andreyev] We were all impressed by the December summit in Washington. The world is increasingly assimilating the lessons of the new political thinking graphically demonstrated by the Soviet leadership and the political leaders of other countries. How is it affecting our Army and the ideas of each serviceman?

[Ivanovskiy] Above all in the more clearly defined defensive nature of Soviet military doctrine and the effort to make every serviceman aware of the nature of it. To have as large an armed force as is necessary for defense against an attack from outside—this is the clear-cut position. The personnel of the Armed Forces and the quantity and quality of the means of armed struggle are strictly commensurate with the level of the military threat and the character and intensity of imperialism's military preparations and are determined by the requirements of safeguarding the security of the Warsaw Pact countries and repulsing aggression.

Yes, parity has been reached in armaments, an entire class of missiles is being eliminated, new agreements are in preparation between the opposing sides, and the start of the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan is in the offing. But the development [razvertyvaniye] of SDI and the improvement of other types of weapons by the West are continuing. So we are obliged to ensure that our defensive might is maintained at the proper level.

Approximately every 10 years, and sometimes more frequently than that, there is a qualitative updating of types of arms and military equipment. The slow buildup in quality inevitably leads to a marked qualitative leap forward. At the moment we are trying to imagine what our Army will be like in the year 2000. We are considering the possibilities that scientific-technical progress is already presenting and what it is going to present tomorrow. We are trying to foresee what we will need to respond to the buildup in the quantity and quality of armaments which the opposing side is dragging us into... But no matter what our Armed Forces look like at the end of the century, one thing remains unchanged—military might, as ever, will stand guard over peace and socialism.

Yefimov Recalls Past Service, Celebrates Holiday
PM031255 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA
INDUSTRIYA in Russian 21 Feb 88 p 3

[Interview with USSR Air Force Commander in Chief A. Yefimov by own correspondent V. Kiselev under the "70th Anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy" rubric: "Under Orders To Protect the Motherland"—first paragraph is editorial introduction; date and place not given]

[Text] He first flew at the age of 15, initially in a glider and then, already a member of an flying club, in a plane. On 4 May 1941 he became a cadet at the Voroshilovgrad Military Aviation School for Pilots. He has been in the forces ever since. Now Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yefimov is commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces. On the eve of the Soviet Army and Navy jubilee your SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA special correspondent interviewed him.

Yefimov: Yes, my army career began at a very unsettled time. War was rumbling right on our Western border. But who knew that it would surge across it so soon?

On Sunday 22 June I was summoned to the control post. My mother and little sister were there. I embraced them, I was happy, but my mother was looking at me anxiously: "Suppose there's a war, Shura, what then?" "Come now, Mother, what are you saying," I laughed. I later accompanied my family to the streetcar and waved goodbye to them. Scarcely had I returned when someone said: "Cadet, run to your unit, it's war!"

My first feeling was that I should instead go to the front, or else they would win without us. Young boys are inexperienced, you know. But the answer we got was that first you have to learn how to fly properly, aces, there'll still be more than enough left for you. There was resentment. It was only later that you appreciated that they were simply looking after us; a military pilot has to know more than just how to take off and land. The front was not deferred for long. There were enough battles, victories, and deaths.

Kiselev: There is an episode in K. Simonov's "The Living and the Dead" where a general shoots himself after losing virtually all his district's aircraft in the first few days of the war. He had rapidly climbed the promotion ladder but, for all the general's stars on his uniform, had essentially remained a lieutenant. That was where the source of the tragedy lay. The writer was no doubt unable to go into more detail about the price paid for the lieutenant's path being cleared. Later the calculations made by Lieutenant General A. Todorskiy were published: Stalin's repressions cut down 3 of the 5 marshals, 3 of the 5 first rank commanders, all of the 10 second rank commanders, 50 of the 57 corps commanders, 154 of the 186 division commanders, and all of the 16 first rank and second rank army commissars... Does this not explain the very tragic beginning of the war for us?

Yefimov: It is a very difficult question.. In the prewar years the German command fabricated provocative documents which subsequently fell into Stalin's hands. The seeds fell on fertile soil. Stalin's theory about the intensification of class struggle as progress is made toward socialism is well known. The repressions did appreciable damage, the best of the Armed Forces was destroyed. As for the feelings engendered in those who remained to serve in the Army...

But, nevertheless, I think it is wrong to see the basic precondition for the tragic year 1941 as residing only in 1937. The reasons for the failures in the initial period of the war were complex and various. Among other things, our military doctrine prior to the fascist aggression held that if the enemy attacked the war would be fought on his territory. Thousands and thousands of people were raised on this. Then they died without fully realizing what was happening.

Stalin was convinced he would be able to delay the war and would be able to finish restructuring and equipping the Army. A sound strategy. But he simply failed to see the point at which this policy became dangerous, for it prevented the country from being brought promptly into a state of combat readiness. Many things were simply not done in time. Here are just a few facts on aviation alone. In 1941 it was planned to form in excess of 100 new air regiments and equip half of them with new types of aircraft. However, only 19 regiments with new equipment had been formed by the beginning of the war. Some units in the western sector had a large percentage of defective aircraft and some of the flying personnel were in retraining. There were virtually no assault planes. You couldn't take seriously a flimsy plane that even a rifle bullet could penetrate.

Kiselev: Yet it was in assault planes that you fought.

Yefimov: Yes, in the marvellous Il-2. They were rushed to us. There were no trainers, so we had to learn the basics actually in warplanes. In June 1942 we set out for the front. My first combat flight was not very successful. In the turmoil of the fighting I lagged behind the group and even got lost.

But you grow up quickly at the front. Thus on my third sortie I was already leading a flight [zveno].

Kiselev: Many people probably thought you were fortunate. Twice hero of the Soviet Union by the age of 22. The war behind you and not a single wound...

Yefimov: A funny sort of fortune. It is not a word to be used at the front. During the war an assault plane made 60 combat flights on average. I made 222. I got into all sorts of scrapes. I caught fire in the air. I was shot up. I once came back with 400 holes in my plane. I had almost 50 dogfights against Hitler's fighters. You say fortunate.

Kiselev: Aleksandr Nikolayevich, our country was not the first to explode an atomic bomb, nor were we the first to be equipped with nuclear missiles. But for many years we have been told that only absolute parity in armaments guarantees the country security. I understand it in these terms: Missile for missile, new plane for new plane. However, the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles proposes that the Soviet side eliminate more missiles than the U.S. side. This is undoubtedly a new stage in political thinking. It also demands changes in military thinking.

Yefimov: Indeed, according to the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, we are to eliminate roughly twice as many of them as the United States. When evaluating this treaty, however, it is necessary to consider not only quantitative indicators but also political, military, moral, and psychological factors. Thus the United States is eliminating in Europe its intermediate-range missiles, which need only a few minutes to travel a distance of up to 2,500 km and hit their target with great accuracy. With such a flight time it is improbable that any antimissile defense will work.

As Army General Yazov, USSR defense minister, has stressed, the elimination of the missiles will make it possible to reduce the danger of war and the level of tension and, consequently, increase our security and the security of the other socialist countries.

Kiselev: To be honest, I feel a certain bewilderment when I hear or read about restructuring in the Army. After all, it is a perfectly tuned machine, a cocked trigger, a taut spring that is instantly activated when needed.

Yefimov: Yes, restructuring is also under way in the Army, since the Army, as M. Frunze put it, is a microcosm of society. All the processes taking place in it are to be seen in the Armed Forces. In past decades phenomena of stagnation accumulated in certain spheres of their life and activity. In some places oversimplification and laxness became chronic in combat training. There are negative phenomena in discipline. The bacilli of indifference and smugness have affected some commanders and political workers.

Seeing the disease and talking about it honestly is half the battle. I think we are on the right path and are doing everything to ensure that our army and navy are at the requisite level of readiness.

Kiselev: M.S. Gorbachev's statement on Afghanistan has been evoked a keen response from not only our friends but our enemies, who interpret it as weakness on the part of the Land of the Soviets and its army, in particular.

Yefimov: There is not the slightest truth in such fabrications. The world public has called M.S. Gorbachev's statement an important initiative opening up the way for a political settlement of the problems of that long-suffering country and the establishment of peace. If some people have seen it as weakness, they are profoundly mistaken.

One of the prime things one judges an Army by is its morale. The spirit of our officers and men in Afghanistan is high, they are in excellent combat shape. Around 70 servicemen there have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Kiselev: Comrade Marshal, what would you wish future officers and men, those whom martial labor awaits tomorrow?

Yefimov: The beginning of one's service stays with one for life. I would want a man to find himself.

The military profession is a difficult one, it demands great physical exertion, knowledge, and spiritual strength. You have to be prepared for this even if you are not intending to devote your whole life to the Army. After all, we are first soldiers who in the country's hour of need are committed to defending the motherland, and only then turners, grain growers, and engineers.

Chernavin, Navy Veterans Discuss Youth Education
PM031105 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
28 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[Rear Admiral (Retired) V. Dmitriyev report: "Meeting With Activists"]

[Text] A meeting took place at the Navy Military Council with activists from the war veteran councils of fleet and flotillas at which ways of improving young people's military-patriotic education were discussed.

The speeches by Admiral (Ret) V. Mikhaylin, Vice Admiral (Ret) V. Sychev, Rear Admirals (Ret) V. Gagarkin and K. Serin, and others generalized the work experience of veterans councils in predraft youth education.

Fleet Admiral V. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, spoke at the meeting.

Yazov, Others Sign Retired General's Obituary
PM041257 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
26 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[Obituary of A.I. Kozmin]

[Excerpts] Colonel General Aleksandr Ivanovich Kozmin, retired, participant in the Great Patriotic War, has died after a serious, prolonged illness. He devoted his entire conscious life to selflessly serving the socialist motherland and the cause of the Communist Party, which he joined in 1940.

A.I. Kozmin was born into an employee's family in the city of Donetsk 18 December 1913. [passage omitted]

In 1962 he became deputy commander for combat training and chief of the Combat Training Directorate of Leningrad Military District and later of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. In subsequent years he served on the apparatus of the commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

D.T. Yazov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, Yu.P. Maksimov, Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, I.M. Tretyak, A.N. Yefimov, V.N. Chernavin, M.I. Sorokin, S.K. Kurkotkin, V.M. Shabanov, N.D. Shestopalov, V.L. Govorov, D.S. Sukhorukov, S.I. Postnikov, A.I. Gribkov, M.D. Popkov, D.A. Grinkevich, V.N. Verevkin-Rakhalskiy, V.M. Arkhipov, A.I. Makunin, Yu.A. Naumenko.